

Biltaji meets Darawsheh over tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Aqel Biltaji discussed with head of the Arab-Israeli Democratic Party and Member of Knesset Abdul Wahab Darawsheh means of raising the number of Arab-Israeli tourists to the Kingdom. Mr. Darawsheh said that Arab-Israelis have a strong desire to visit Jordan. "The number of Arab-Israeli tourists to the Kingdom is on the rise since they are offered good facilities and services and that they are treated as if they were in their home. We will hold a touristic conference in Nasareth to forge tourism to Jordan and will take part in the Kingdom's festivities for the pan-Arab Games which will be held in the year 2000," Mr. Darawsheh said.

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Palestinian prisoners stage 24-hour hunger strike

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — The 3,400 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails staged a 24-hour hunger strike Monday to protest against prison conditions and detention without trial, a prisoners' association here said. Issa Karaka, head of the Bethlehem-based Prisoners' Association, said the Palestinian prisoners would step up their protests if prison conditions were not improved. He said the hunger strike was called to protest against prison conditions, administrative detention and the incarceration of Israeli common law criminals in the same cells as Palestinians. Some 3,000 Palestinians are imprisoned in Israel according to the association and 432 are in administrative detention.

Arafat holds talks with Mubarak in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discussed the Middle East peace process with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in the Mediterranean resort of Burj Al Arab Monday, presidential sources said. The talks follow a mission by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to explore ways of reviving Middle East peacemaking.

3 Iraqis killed, 11 hurt in minefield on Greek-Turkeborder

ATHENS (AFP) — Three Iraqi Kurds attempting to slip illegally into Greece were killed and 11 injured in a minefield on the border between Greece and Turkey, the Greek army said Monday. A statement issued by the army's high command said the accident occurred overnight Sunday to Monday when a group of 62 Iraqi Kurds crossed the minefield, setting off two landmines, in spite of signs warning of danger and a double wire fence. The army said those left trapped in the minefield had been rescued and the injured taken to hospital. The remainder of the group of would-be immigrants were taken to a nearby police station.

Italy urges European ambassadors to return to Iran

ROME (AFP) — Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini urged European Union states Monday to take up Iran's invitation to return their ambassadors to Tehran, because of the new moderate regime in the country. The issue is due to be discussed at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels later Monday. EU ambassadors were withdrawn five months ago because of a German court ruling that linked Iranian leaders with the 1992 assassination in Berlin of four Iranian dissidents. "Now that a new moderate government has invited them back, it seems to us that we cannot continue to not have our ambassadors in Tehran," Mr. Dini told the Paris-based International Herald Tribune.

King, Zeroual discuss ties, Algeria's war on violence

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Algerian President Liamine Zeroual Monday strongly condemned "terrorist acts" in Algeria and expressed hope that these acts will come to an end in the near future, Jordan Television reported.

"We spoke about our joint pain, about what we see happening, and what we condemn and feel disgusted when it happens," the King said following a meeting with President Zeroual, who arrived here in a three-day visit.

"These crimes are committed in the name of religion and faith, whereas religion and faith are far away from it," the King said in a short statement to the press following the meeting.

These crimes "provoke everyone of us vis-a-vis his religion, his Arabism and his humanity. I hope that with the wise leadership in Algeria and with the support of the Algerian people, Algeria will reach the status that we all aspire," he added.

Since the 1992 parliamentary elections, when the Algerian government revoked a landslide victory by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), more than 60,000 people were killed in the north African country.

The cancellation of the elections led to a series of deadly attacks which tar-

getted civilians and officials alike.

President Zeroual said that his government is firm and determined to continue its campaign to uproot "terrorism" and bring life in Algeria back to normal.

"We informed His Majesty of the strong will of the Algerian people and its government to eliminate once and for all terrorism which is alien to our culture," said President Zeroual, who arrived from Syria.

During their meeting at the Royal Palace, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials from both sides, the two leaders discussed the internal affairs of Algeria, bilateral relations and the logjam in the peace process.

Mr. Zeroual briefed the King on the latest developments in Algeria and the economic, political and security achievements of the "national correction" programme, which the Algerian government is implementing against the groups behind violence. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Zeroual said that his country was ready to extend help to revive the peace process between the Arabs and Israel and called upon Tel Aviv to withdraw from all Arab occupied territories as a prerequisite condition for a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

The King reiterated Jordan's position to achieve a



His Majesty King Hussein greets Algerian President Liamine Zeroual upon his arrival in Amman Monday (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

fair and honest peace "based on international legitimacy and the implementation of all agreements signed."

The two leaders also said that they will work towards speeding up coordination between Arab countries and avoiding current problems among Arab states in order to unify Arab ranks.

The Algerian president said that the two sides will sign several agreements that would enhance the cooperation and ties between the two countries.

Among the agreements to be signed on Tuesday, the two sides will seal a maritime transportation accord between Jordanian and Algerian ports.

The Algerian president is accompanied by a large delegation which includes ministers of foreign affairs, higher education and scientific research, transportation and trade.

Following the meeting, His Majesty conferred upon the Algerian president the Al Hussein Ben Ali Medal.

Jordan must build sound economy able to cope with global change — Crown Prince

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday that the Kingdom must build a sound national economy that can compete on the international market and cope with regional and global changes.

To achieve that, he said, "economic policies must develop through continuous interaction and dialogue among the government, industries, academia as well as training and research institutes."

In a speech delivered on behalf of Crown Prince Hassan by Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Jawad Anani at the opening session of the Fifth Science Week launched yesterday, the Prince noted that the world has witnessed fundamental changes that led to the liberalisation of world trade, and allowed for the free movement of capital and information.

"We are living in a world that is increasingly shrinking, globalism is a reality that no one can ignore," he said.

That, the Crown Prince said, posed a challenge to

emerging economies. Globalism, he said, "can bring enormous benefits to those who learn how to respond to it, and the only viable response is one that entails the adoption of well thought-out and clearly articulated policies that take note of the changing rules governing the global scene."

The Fifth Science Week held this year under the theme: "Enhancing Jordanian Competitiveness, Quality, Productivity, Transparency and Accountability," aims at "formulating practical and implementable recommendations that can help Jordan cope with the dramatic economic and technological changes that are fast transforming our world," Prince Hassan said.

In a world that is increasingly shrinking interaction among all sectors and forces of production, a free flow of information, interdisciplinary coordination as well as openness to the world and to the experience of other nations, have all become essential ingredients in articulating policies that take note of the changing global rules.

"We have gone a considerable way in integrating

our economy into the global economy," the Prince said.

Noting that Jordan has already initiated an association agreement with the European Union, which "provides enormous opportunities for economic, cultural and political cooperation with 26 other European and Mediterranean countries," the Prince said he hoped that by the year 2010 these countries will establish what would be the largest free trade area in the world. Jordan has also started its accession process to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Prince Hassan noted, "These are developments that offer both challenges and opportunities. Utilising these opportunities requires genuine reforms in our economic system, planning and thinking if we are to render our economy compatible with the global economy," he added.

He said that the type of thinking and action was the one taken by Jordan and other industrial countries "in their search for viable mechanism to

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Israeli settlers move into Arab Jerusalem; block Hebron road

Combined agency dispatches

JEWISH SETTLERS waved Israeli flags in triumph Monday from two buildings they took over in an Arab neighbourhood in Ras Al Amoud, and dozens of police deployed nearby to protect the settlers.

Palestinians threw several stones at police guarding the settlers. Palestinian leaders warned more violence would erupt unless the settlers were evicted immediately from the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood of 11,000 Palestinians in Arab east Jerusalem, the district the Palestinians claim as a future capital.

The settlers' action threatened to trigger new confrontations between Israelis and Palestinians at a time when both sides were trying to restore mutual trust at the urging of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright who visited the region last week.

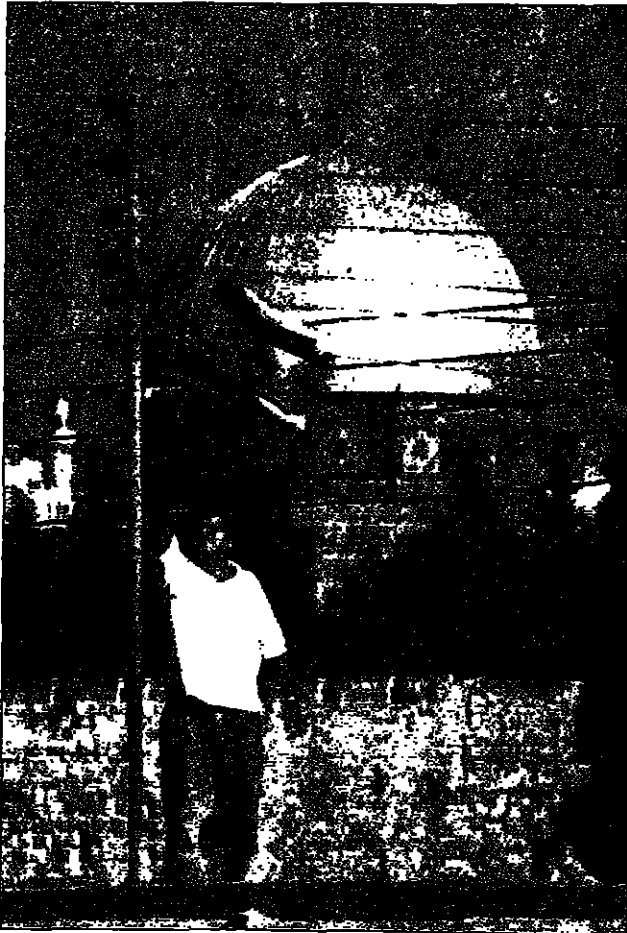
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with security officials Monday to decide whether to order the settlers evicted on grounds of national security.

Israel Radio said Mr. Netanyahu knew as early as a week ago that the settlers planned to move in.

However, officials in Netanyahu's office were quoted by the radio as saying they only learned late last night of the imminent takeover.

Mr. Netanyahu asked his police minister to stop the settlers but was told police could not stop the takeover because the buildings are owned by Miami multi-millionaire Irving Moskowitz who leased the properties to the settlers.

An irritated Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy told army radio that for the settlers to "send a message about who dictates the moves instead of the government, this is something that weakens the govern-



A Jewish settler waves an Israeli flag Monday as he stands atop one of the two Arab homes that Jewish settlers moved into late last night in the Arab east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Ras Al Amoud. Behind is the Dome of the Rock inside the walls of the Old City, one of Islam's holiest shrines (Reuters photo)

ment, weakens the peace process, and is liable to spark unnecessary tension."

He said a "barration" would be needed daily to protect the settlers but for the present they would remain.

Three members of Mr. Netanyahu's ruling coalition joined the settlers Monday and urged him not to expel them.

"Taking place on this day in particular ... after Mrs. Albright's departure [on Friday] is only going to lead to an explosion," senior PNA official Faisal Hussein said Sunday.

Ahmad Abdul Rahman, general secretary of the Palestinian cabinet, told

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Israel to lift blockade, release PNA funds

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held out an olive branch to the Palestinians Sunday, promising to lift an internal blockade on the West Bank and pay millions of dollars owed to the cash-strapped Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The Israeli government also announced it would veto a controversial Jewish settlement project in an Arab district of Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.

It is the first major breakthrough in the seven-month old crisis in the peace process which was sparked by Israeli settlement building and exacerbated by Islamist bombings in Jerusalem over the past eight weeks.

The announcements follow hot on the heels of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories last week during which she said she had not achieved "a great deal."

But Sunday, Ms. Albright said: "They [the Israeli leadership] heard my message."

Israel's steps appear to heed Ms. Albright's criticism of its withholding of around \$100 million of funds owed to the Palestinians and her call for a freeze on settlement building on occupied Arab lands.

"There is a need for fulfillment of obligations. I can fully understand that it is very difficult to operate under the threat of terror but mutual obligations are essential," she said at a joint press conference in Amman with His Majesty King Hussein.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh bids farewell to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as she leaves Jordan for Lebanon, the last leg of her maiden Middle East tour (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

Ms. Albright had left Israel on Friday able to announce only that she had made "small steps" in arranging a meeting between top Israeli and Palestinian officials in Washington later this month.

But Israel said Sunday it will lift the 10-day old blockade preventing Palestinians from travelling between towns in the West Bank Monday following a decision by Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

"This constitutes a goodwill gesture by Israel following the commitments taken by the PNA to crack down against Islamic terrorists in the territories under its control," said Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman David Bar-Ilan.

The blockade, which prevents

Albright calls for end to south Lebanon violence

BEIRUT (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called Monday for an end to the violent status quo in south Lebanon, following a recent upsurge in fighting between Israel and Lebanese groups.

"The recent tragic violence in the south of the country has underlined that the status quo is not acceptable," she told businessmen during a visit to Beirut.

"Any lasting settlement between Lebanon and Israel must include true security for Israel, full sovereignty for Lebanon over all its territories and real peace with normal relations," she added.

Israel has occupied a buffer strip in south

Lebanon since 1985 to protect its northern border from attacks by anti-Israeli Lebanese groups.

Ms. Albright reiterated U.S. support for the International Ceasefire Monitoring Committee in south Lebanon, which monitors an April 1996 accord under which both sides are supposed to spare civilians in their conflict.

She said she could not be hopeful of new talks to kick-start the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process, but said she would hold separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Israel, Lebanon and Syria on the

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Syria, Algeria call for Israel to withdraw from Arab land

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Assad and visiting Algerian President Lamine Zeroual on Monday called on Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab land and pull its troops out of Lebanon.

The call came in a joint statement issued at the end of Mr. Zeroual's three-day visit.

The communiqué, carried by the official Syrian Arab News Agency, also expressed concern over planned Israeli-Turkish-American military manoeuvres. The three countries have scheduled naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean Sea for November.

It said that Turkish military cooperation with Israel contradicted "traditional ties between Turkey and the Arab Nation."

The Israeli-Arab peace process has ground to a halt since the election in May 1996 of Israel's hard-line Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations broke down last March after Mr. Netanyahu's government went ahead with the construction of a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of their future state.

Israel broke off peace

talks with Syria in March 1996 amid a series of bombings blamed on Islamists.

Syria demands that Israel return the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war, in exchange for peace.

Although the Labour government that preceded Mr. Netanyahu's coalition had expressed willingness to do so, Mr. Netanyahu is opposed to letting go of the Golan Heights on security grounds.

The communiqué held the Israeli government "fully responsible for undermining the peace process by refusing to abide by already

reached commitments and undertakings and to resume negotiations where they last broke up."

The two countries also urged Arab countries to implement Arab League resolutions calling for an end to normalisation of relations with Israel until it negotiates in good faith.

The communiqué also said that Syria "strongly condemned the brutal massacres committed lately against innocent civilians in Algeria."

A five-and-a-half year insurgency by Islamists in Algeria has left more than 60,000 people dead.



Activist Issam Abdul Hadi hands a protest message to the U.S. embassy press attaché, Steve Thibault, following an hour-long sit-in at the embassy's location in Abdoun over U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's tour of the region (Photo by Youssef 'Allan')

Four Islamists sentenced to death in Egypt

HUCKSTEP (AFP) — An Egyptian military court sentenced four Islamists to death Monday for a wave of attacks in 1994 and 1995, including the murder of a general leading the fight against violence.

The four were part of a group of 97 suspected members of Jamaa Islamiya, Egypt's largest militant organisation, on trial at the army base of Huckstep, north of Cairo. Among those condemned to death was Mohammed Fawzi Ibrahim, who was already given a death sentence in another trial of Islamists in 1995.

The Huckstep Court also handed down eight life sentences of hard labour, while 54 were jailed for between three and 15 years with hard labour. Six defendants were sentenced to one to 10 years behind bars and 25 were acquitted.

The military court's verdicts are not subject to appeal.

For the first time, five women were in the dock of a military court, for concealing arms and membership in the outlawed Jamaa. Four of them, including a grandmother, were jailed for between one and 15 years, and one acquitted.

One of the accused, Hassan Sayed Hassan, 30, died in prison. His lawyer, Muntassar Al Zayat, charged that his death was caused by neglect.

A total of 91 Islamic militants have been sentenced to death since a wave of Islamic militants unrest which erupted in Egypt in March 1992 and has cost some 1,230 lives. Fifty-seven executions have been carried out.

Palestinian deputy protests 'arbitrary' Israeli arrests

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — A Palestinian deputy on Monday condemned the "arbitrary" arrest of 11 Palestinians by the Israeli army in a village near the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

Salah Tamari said the youths, aged 16 to 25, were picked up at their homes in the village of Shawarah late on Sunday night.

Mr. Tamari, who represents Bethlehem on the

Palestinian Legislative Council, demanded their immediate release, saying "these arbitrary arrests violate human rights."

He said the families of those detained had been given no reason for their arrest and no information about where they were being held.

Mr. Tamari said Israeli security officials had also confiscated three cars belonging to residents of the village.

The Israel army has rounded up around 400 Palestinians who its says have links to Hamas since the group's military wing, the Izzeddine Al Qassam Brigade, claimed responsibility for two bombings in Jerusalem in the past seven weeks which left 20 Israelis dead.

Palestinian police uncovered a Hamas cell in the village of Beit Sahour near Bethlehem in July.

Women activists protest in front of U.S. mission

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of Jordanian women organisations Monday staged a sit-in near the U.S. embassy in Amman to protest against what they described as "pro-Israel remarks" made by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during her visit to Israel last week.

Emily Nafa'a, one of the organisers of the protest, told reporters that the sit-in

was to express objection to U.S. policy in general and Ms. Albright's remarks in particular.

"Ms. Albright arrived [in the Middle East] to ensure the security of Israel. But Israeli security cannot be guaranteed through occupation and continuous aggressive policies against the Palestinian people," Ms. Nafa'a, a communist candidate for the autumn parliamentary elections, said.

"The women organisations in Jordan denounce the

American policy which is biased towards [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu who has put the regional security on top of a volcano crater," she added.

The secretary of state, who on Monday concluded a regional tour which took her to Israel, the Palestinian self-rule areas, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon as well as Jordan, urged the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to clamp down on what she termed as "terrorist organisations" responsible

for a series of suicide bombings in Israel.

She also criticised Israel for the "unilateral steps" it undertook, saying these steps undermined peace-making in the region. Palestinians were sceptical about the outcome of the visit.

During the one-hour peaceful protest, the women handed a letter of protest to the press attaché at the U.S. embassy, Steve Thibault, who told them that he will convey the letter to his government.

GCC not funding militant groups — S. Arabia

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states were not funding Islamist groups opposed to the Middle East peace process.

"Arab states are supporting the Palestinian government. If it wishes to extend it to another party this is its concern," Prince Saud Al Faisal told the Saudi-owned Arabic newspaper

Al Hayat.

Prince Saud was referring to comments made by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia in which she said Arabs should extend assistance to the self-rule Palestinian National Authority.

Ms. Albright, who met foreign ministers of the six GCC states in the Saudi resort of Abha Sunday,

urged oil-rich Gulf Arabs to clamp down on, fund-raising for Islamist groups accused of street bombings in Israel.

She said Arab states had a responsibility to "work against the enemies of peace" and "do your utmost to ensure no assistance of any kind reaches the practitioners of extremist violence, such as Hamas."

Israel charges that Islamic trusts in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere raise funds for Hamas, which has been blamed for two bombings that have killed 20 Israelis since July 30.

Gulf states retort that Hamas and similar groups manage to raise funds even in the United States despite efforts by the U.S. administration to prevent it.

Iran slams claims over nuclear arms

TEHRAN (R) — Iran Monday described as "despicable" claims by the United States and Israel that the Islamic republic posed a danger to the region by arming itself with nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

"The Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Mahmoud Moharamadi said Monday that the Zionist [Israeli] circles' allegations and rumours against the Islamic Republic are reflections of their desper-

ation and condemned the allegations as despicable," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

"The spread of baseless rumours such as...Iran's attempts to build long-range nuclear weapons, are prompted by the failure of the Zionist regime in its expansionist policies..." IRNA quoted Mr. Moharamadi as saying.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State

Madeleine Albright Thursday voiced concern at the danger they said the Islamic republic posed to the Middle East by arming itself with nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Washington has been concerned about reports that Russia and China were helping Iran build long-range nuclear missiles and has for years followed reports of Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear technology.

Gulf Arab newspapers describe Albright tour of the Middle Eastern as a failure

DUBAI (Agencies) — Gulf Arab newspapers Monday criticised U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's maiden tour of the Middle East and branded it a failure.

"She did not manage to revive the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. She did not work to stop Israel's collective punishment of Palestinians, and she failed to convince Arab states to attend the Doha summit," said the Saudi daily Al Bilad.

For Al Rai Al Am in Kuwait, the secretary of state "ignored the crux of the problem in the Middle East, which accounts for the lack of results" during her six-day tour which started last Wednesday.

"Albright must definitely make

more visits to the region to get to know the problems more deeply, and she must certainly take a balanced stand in harmony with the hopes of the people in the region who want peace," it said.

A columnist in the Kuwaiti daily Al Anba questioned whether Ms. Albright's position in urging Arab attendance at the Doha economic summit was that of an independent mediator.

"At the end of her Arab tour Albright gathered with the Gulf states in Abha [Saudi Arabia] to pressure them to attend the Middle East conference in Qatar, which is considered a project to support the economy and policy of Israel.

"In all that, is there neutrality in

the action of the mediator Albright?" the columnist asked.

In the United Arab Emirates, Al Bayan said it was "illogical" for Ms. Albright to have asked the Gulf Arab states at talks in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to be "generous" in their aid for the Palestinians under Israeli blockade.

"Albright would have done better to look for ways to break the deadlock in the peace process and to put pressure on Israel to force it to lift the blockade instead of asking other countries to pay up," the paper said.

"The logic of Albright does not inspire confidence between the Arabs and the U.S. administration," said Al Bayan.

The Gulf News, also in the UAE, said Ms. Albright had "done nothing to enhance her reputation among Arabs. She came to the Middle East as a known sympathiser of Israel... She leaves the region with her reputation intact."

"What is happening in the region is very serious and Albright did not bring anything new," said Al Watan in Qatar, which in November is to host the Arab-Israeli economic summit backed by the U.S.

In Baghdad, Iraqi newspapers also described Ms. Albright's regional tour as a failure, saying Ms. Albright's Middle East tour has fell short of reviving the peace process.

"Albright cannot succeed where her envoy Dennis Ross failed... both failed to pressurise [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu into accepting the idea of exchanging land-for-peace," the English daily Baghdad Observer said.

"Albright can never be a neutral peace broker... she is mainly concerned with Israeli security regardless of Arab rights and grievances," the paper said.

The paper said the best solution was that "Palestinian and Lebanese freedom fighters should continue their struggle until the enemy is forced to retreat and withdraw its occupying forces from all Arab territories."

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said: "Albright's visit has shrugged off for ever dreams of some Arab rulers who have imagined that America can be a friend to the Arabs."

"The best unique Arab option is work within President Saddam Hussein's [earlier] call to hold an Arab summit to discuss the Palestinian issue only," Al Jumhuriyah said.

Iraq, which fired scores of Scud missiles at Israel during the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait, is still theoretically at war with Israel.

Its official media carried reports opposing the making of peace by Arabs with Israel.

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:10.....Sando Can
14:30.....C.R.O.
15:00.....Square One TV
15:30.....Skipty
16:00.....Album Show
17:00.....French Programmes
19:00.....News in French
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35.....Coach
20:00.....Tilt
20:30.....Encounter
21:10 Doc. — Nature of Things
22:00.....News in English
22:30.....Great Defender
23:15.....I Remember Nelson
23:59.....End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:57.....Fajr
06:15.....(Sunrise) Doha
12:31.....Dhuhr
16:01.....'Asr
18:46.....Maghreb
20:04.....'Isha

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661757.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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His
Highness
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Engineers assoc

300 members for

Dr. Shukri Hamzeh
President of the Jordanian Association of Engineers (JAE) has announced that the association has reached a milestone of 300 members. He said that the association has been working hard to promote the engineering profession and to provide a platform for engineers to voice their concerns and suggestions. He also mentioned that the association has been successful in lobbying for the interests of engineers in various government departments and ministries. Dr. Hamzeh expressed his satisfaction with the growth of the association and his confidence in the future. He also thanked the members for their support and commitment. The JAE is a professional organization that represents the interests of engineers in Jordan and works to improve the standards of the profession. It also provides a forum for engineers to share their knowledge and experience and to collaborate on various projects. The association has been active in promoting the engineering profession and in advocating for the interests of engineers in the country. It has also been successful in securing the recognition of the engineering profession by the government and the public. Dr. Hamzeh's announcement of 300 members is a testament to the success of the association in its efforts to promote the engineering profession and to provide a platform for engineers to voice their concerns and suggestions.

FILE

"Educating Ruler" at the

Amman at 6:00 p.m.

LECTURE

Life and Works of

by Prof. Pabir Nazzari
Jordanian poet Pabir Nazzari will be the guest speaker at a lecture titled "Life and Works of Pabir Nazzari" to be held at the Jordanian Cultural Centre in Amman on Tuesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. The lecture will be in Arabic and will focus on the life and works of the renowned Jordanian poet. Prof. Nazzari is a distinguished scholar and a leading authority on the life and works of Pabir Nazzari. He has written several books and articles on the poet and his work. The lecture is expected to be a valuable contribution to the understanding of Pabir Nazzari and his work. Tickets for the lecture are available at the Jordanian Cultural Centre. For more information, contact the Centre on Tel. 810740.

EXHIBITIONS

Works by Syrian artist D-

at the Jordanian Cultural Centre in Amman.

Queen Noor opens first Jordanian architectural conservation conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday opened the First Conference on the Conservation of Jordanian Architectural Heritage at the Royal Cultural Centre, according to a press release Monday.

The three-day conference, organised by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, comprises lectures on issues ranging from documentation and restoration of traditional villages in the context of community development projects to balancing sustainable tourism with development of historical sites, the announcement continued.

According to the conference's Higher Committee spokesperson Marwan Fa'ouri, the objectives are to "raise awareness of the importance of the preservation of archaeological and historic architectural sites, prepare a national register identifying architectural heritage sites, and encourage the government and private sectors to benefit from heritage sites, especially in the field of tourism," the statement said.

Queen Noor, who opened the conference's architectural exhibition, expressed her encouragement at seeing

projects that she followed and supported before her marriage and that laid the foundation for subsequent efforts in this field, the press release continued.

She noted that this conference corresponds with "heightened interest in Jordan's architectural heritage," citing the recent "studies of traditional village and urban architecture, the establishment of the Jordanian Architectural Heritage Society, and an upsurge in the restoration of old houses for use as residences, shops, or office space." The Queen added that these restored houses, many of which have been "re-adapted to accommodate income-generating projects geared toward the revival of traditional handicrafts and environmental conservation, have become as important to present generation as they were to those who built them in the past," the announcement said.

Queen Noor, who received a degree in architecture and urban planning at Princeton University, has been involved in developing and promoting culturally and environmentally sensitive architectural design and conservation in Jordan. She established, in 1980, a National Committee for

Public Buildings and Architectural Heritage to research, record, preserve, and rehabilitate historic buildings, raise the standard of modern architecture, and promote the study of Arab Islamic and ancient architecture and regional influences on Jordanian architecture, the statement said.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation has renovated old farmhouses overlooking the Hellenistic palace at Iraq Al Amir. The farmhouses have been transformed into a handicrafts village that will preserve the cultural heritage of the region and will be linked to the archaeological site, thus enhancing its touristic appeal and increasing the benefits to the community, the press release read.

Jordan, during the past five decades, has witnessed the abandonment of its historic villages and neighbourhoods and the subsequent over-expansion of its urban centres. In order to reverse this trend, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), with the support of the government of Jordan and the World Bank, established a nature reserve in Dana, an abandoned village in the south, and began a project to revitalise it, the

statement read.

Queen Noor, the patron of the RSCN, visits Dana regularly to review the progress of the project, which involves the renovation of the original historic stone dwellings and provision of basic services and income-generating activities for the villagers, the statement said.

According to the Antiquities Law of 1988, buildings and monuments predating 1700 AD must be protected and preserved; however, the law is not clear in its identification of architectural heritage post-dating 1700. Turn of the century buildings and traditional villages are in danger of being destroyed and the implementation of proper guidance for conservation projects in the area of planning and zoning control is imperative, the statement continued.

Attending the conference with the Queen were HRH Princess Wijdan Ali, Sharifa Zein Nasser, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan, Minister of Tourism Akel Biltaji, the Mayor of Amman Mamdouh Abbadi, and prominent architects from Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Syria, the announcement concluded.

Four opposition members retract resignations 'out of respect'

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four of the six moderate Islamists who resigned from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Executive Committee in protest against the front's decision to boycott the Nov. 4 parliamentary elections retracted their resignations Monday, party sources said.

IAF Secretary General Ishaq Farhan, spokesperson Hamzeh Mansour, Executive Committee Secretary Mohammed Awaideh, and Financial Affairs Secretary Ahmad Tannash rescinded their decisions "out of respect" to the party's higher decision-making body, the Shura Council, Mr. Mansour told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Monday.

"Upon the Shura Council's insistence, we were compelled to accept," he said.

The council had rejected the six leaders' resignations

and Friday called on the resignees to retract their decisions until at least the end of the council's mandate in December.

The six members in the 17-strong Executive Committee submitted their resignations in July, when the council adopted the Muslim Brotherhood's decision to boycott the upcoming elections, breaking with its past history of dealing with the regime.

"I participated in leading the party with a certain vision and plan, stemming from a certain political programme. But in July, the IAF adopted a completely different political programme, based on different principles, and I felt I was not the right person in the right place any more," Mr. Mansour said.

"They (the IAF higher cadres) used to believe in sharing in the political life of the country, while the front's new vision excludes parliamentary participation," he

added.

The two leaders who did not withdraw their resignations are IAF former Deputies Bassam Emoush and Abdullah Akaileh.

Dr. Akaileh declined to elaborate on the reasons of his resignation, but suggested that he considered it "final."

Dr. Emoush explained that he would not retract his resignation because "the reasons for my resignation still stand."

In interviews and columns in the Arabic press, Dr. Emoush repeatedly rejected as inadequate and illogical the Muslim Brotherhood's explanations for the boycott.

The Muslim Brotherhood and the IAF listed the 1994 peace treaty with Israel and subsequent normalisation of ties, as well as the one-person, one-vote system and recent controversial amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law, as the rea-

sons prompting their boycott decision.

Dr. Emoush objected to such reasoning, saying that the Brotherhood should have called on its deputies, who sat in the Lower House under the insignia of the IAF, to resign when Parliament ratified the peace treaty. He also noted that the Brotherhood participated in the 1993 elections, also held under the one-person, one-vote formula, and questioned whether public freedoms were at that time more extensive.

However, he strongly denied speculations that his or others' resignations could result in the establishment of a new Islamic party to challenge the IAF's monopoly in the political arena. He also excluded the possibility that he would run in the next elections, notwithstanding his disagreement with the front's boycott decision.

Conference discusses necessity of transparency in public sector

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The integration of transparency into the public sector to hold civil servants, particularly those involved in the decision-making process, accountable for their actions was the major issue discussed at a roundtable meeting on transparency and accountability at the Royal Scientific Society Monday.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Jawad Anani, Deputy Prime Minister for Development and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs said "transparency must become a common term in Jordan and should be clearly reflected in decision-making, especially where financial matters are concerned."

Transparency and accountability have become important as the Kingdom undergoes privatisation and builds its civil society capacity, the minister told the Jordan Times.

Governments should be

motivated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to take part in the creation of an institution based on transparency and accountability, he said.

Jeremy Pope, President of Transparency International, spoke about his anti-corruption NGO.

"Our mission is to curb corruption through international and national coalitions encouraging governments to establish and implement effective laws, policies, and anti-corruption programmes," he said.

According to the minister, Jordan needs to be exposed to the experiences of Transparency International, as Jordan "and many other countries in the world are not immune to corruption."

A modern state is one that is based on horizontal accountability, Mr. Pope said.

"In a totalitarian state, accountability is vertical. Orders come from the power vested at the top, and so accountability is from the

bottom upwards," he explained.

Transparency is important in minimising areas of abusive power and corruption, Mr. Pope explained.

States that abused their power are ineffective, and there is a direct correlation between the loss of foreign investment and corruption, he said.

A local programme of diagnosis for transparency, accountability, and corruption is usually tackled through a national chapter, Mr. Pope explained.

"This would require access to information, and the flow of information at the level of an independent judiciary," he added.

Accordingly, a draft national chapter for transparency in Jordan, compiled by Zuhair Kayed, Director General of the Institute of Public Administration, was discussed at the roundtable.

He told the Jordan Times that "this national chapter for transparency is just an initiative to be debated and

revised."

Afterwards, it is to be established as an international chapter, he added.

There are approximately 60 international chapters, with the purpose of promoting public awareness of corruption and to improve civil servant services, the private sector, and NGOs, Dr. Kayed said.

The eventual society endorsed by the national chapter would be responsible for "ringing the bell" on suspicious actions, Dr. Kayed detailed.

To become a member of Transparency International, Jordan must apply for provisional accreditation and after two years may become a permanent member, said Mr. Pope.

This roundtable falls within a series of deliberations of the Fifth Jordanian Science Week on the themes of transparency, accountability, and quality for enhancing Jordanian competitiveness.

Crown Prince Hassan calls for integrated Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday said the need for an integrated Arab World is growing rapidly in light of regional and international developments.

These developments make the need for inter-Arab cooperation and integration a basic requirement for sustainable economic development, Prince Hassan added.

Addressing a group of visiting investors and representatives of Arab investment institutions, Prince Hassan called for creative ideas to contribute to the creation of an integrated Arab World and for the attainment of a common Arab institutionalised agenda to achieve that goal.

"Every minute that passes by without institutionalised action and efforts towards integration is bound to have negative effects on the Arab people's interests and on the Arab countries' capability to achieve economic development," Prince Hassan warned.

Prince Hassan, who spoke in the presence of Minister of Industry and Trade and Supply Hani Mulki and Central Bank Governor Ziyad Fariz, emphasised the importance of Jordan's pivotal role in building cooperation and stimulating the work of the Arab World's institutions.

He underlined the important role that the private sector can play in the integration of Arab states to

achieve economic development.

The Crown Prince said recently introduced legislation has created an attractive environment for investments, from which Arab capital may benefit.

The Jordanian economy is heading in the right direction and has started yielding positive and tangible results, due largely to the drastic reforms introduced to improve economic performance, encourage investments, and promote the role of the private sector, he said.

The investors are in Amman to take part in Housing Bank's board meetings.

Housing Bank Board Chairman Zuhair Khouri also attended the meeting.

Queen Noor meets with president of Japanese development organisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met Monday with Satoyo Ono, the president of the Japanese Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICOD), a non-governmental organisation that supports and funds projects in diverse fields, including community development, educational empowerment of women, health care, refugee-relief, and environmental conservation, according to a press release Monday.

Queen Noor and Ms. Ono discussed NICOD's different projects in Jordan and possibilities of expanding them, the statement added.

NICOD financed the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC), which was inaugurated last July by Queen Noor, the honorary president of the national federation of BPWC. The business incubator service, which is the first of its kind in Jordan and the Arab World, was established in cooperation with the UNIFEM regional office in Amman, the press release concluded.

The remainder, however, criticised JEA for making the decision before contacting them personally.

Saliba Khouri, an electronics engineer among the 300 suspended, said he registered in JEA in 1976 and has since changed profession. "Nonetheless, they should have contacted the engineers one by one to find out if they still practise before suspending them and publishing their names in the papers," he said.

Royal Jordanian President Nader Dahabi said he was not contacted personally, and as a result, had no former knowledge of the entire situation, but will contact the association about the issue.

Mr. Abu Gheida said many have responded by paying their overdue fees, while others have sent e-mail messages from abroad inquiring on how to pay.

Engineers' association suspends 300 members for not paying dues

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) has taken steps to suspend 300 of its registered members for failing to pay membership fees, some for as long as 18 years.

According to Vice President of JEA Husni Abu Gheida, "350 of our registered engineers have not paid their fees for 18 years, whilst an additional 500 have not paid for 15 years."

The annual membership fee is JD30. "The association's law demands that each member pay his or her fees within two years of registration; therefore all those in debt to the association are breaking the law, which entitles us to suspend their membership until they pay," Mr. Abu Gheida said.

"The [delinquent] engineers owe the JEA about JD4 million, and we need this money in order to finance

our projects and provide professional, scientific, and investment services to all members," he explained.

He said the suspension of membership is only a warning, and that defaulting engineers have three months to pay before their membership is revoked.

According to the law, an engineer who is not a member of the association cannot practise the profession.

Former association president Ibrahim Abu Ayash supported the measure, saying "the procedure should be repeated every two years to ensure payment by all."

He said, however, that most of the engineers in question either left the country long ago, or are working in different fields or have a private practice.

Many of the suspended engineers listed in the papers Saturday live abroad and have no way of knowing the situation, while others, who refused to give their names, said they "really do not care

if their membership is suspended," since they work in different fields.

The remainder, however, criticised JEA for making the decision before contacting them personally.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM
• "Educating Rita" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

LECTURE
• "Life and Works of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda" by Chilean Ambassador to Jordan Jorge Iglesias at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
• Works by Syrian artist Dr. Futeh Moudarres at Baladna

Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 5537598).
• Exhibition of photographs about the life of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman until Sept. 23.

• Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab Madinas in Batik" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 644555).

• Works by Ali Al Yazbiki at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until

Sept. 16.
• Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Mufleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 5536098).

• Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.

• Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine: The Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

Women's conference examines current status of preparations for elections

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prior to the Nov. 4 parliamentary elections, women candidates and activists Monday attended a convention during which they discussed several issues pertaining to the general elections, including analysis of the current state of preparation for the elections and women's legal, health, educational, political, and economic demands.

The event, entitled the "Convention on Jordanian Women's Demands for the Upcoming Parliamentary Elections," continues today and will tackle subjects such as obstacles and opportunities to improve the legal, economic, educational, and health status of women and building lobbies and pressure groups.

Jordan Times Deputy Editor Abdallah Hasanat

reviewed the different issues that will dominate the elections.

These, he said, will include the boycott of elections by opposition parties, the constitutional reform issue, poverty issues, and the one-person, one-vote system, which he said "is important to women as much as it is for men."

Attorneys Rehab Kaddoumi and Akif Mu'aita presented two papers that tackled some of the civil laws recently amended in favour of women, and some that still discriminate against women and violate several conventions signed by Jordan.

The session, attended by approximately 120 grassroots women activists from different parts of the Kingdom, was inaugurated by HRH Princess Aisha on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor, and was also addressed by Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Olaf

Koendgen, who said that "promoting a liberal and democratic state of law, as well as a societal order in which political, social, cultural, and human rights are fully realised is one of our main aims at the foundation."

"We believe that the improvement of the situation of women is an indispensable factor in building a free and democratic society," he added.

Furthermore, Mr. Koendgen said, the organisation advocates the abolishment of gender-specific discrimination, the improvement of the living condition of poor women, and raising awareness among politicians, the public, and women themselves.

Referring to his own experience since taking the Amman post in October 1995, Mr. Koendgen said: "I have met many educated and vocal women who are in dif-

ferent spheres of the society, but unfortunately, I have met few women on the decision-making level."

"The discrepancy is obvious. Traditionalism and obsolete behaviour patterns are still dominant and are preventing women from playing a more substantial role in society," he said.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser said in his opening speech that Jordanian women have proven themselves, "but still they are faced with many challenges that lessen their chances of being involved in political and social life."

"The percentage of women's participation in the political, municipal, and decision-making positions is low. Therefore, in order for women to increase these numbers, they should have enough knowledge of their roles and what is needed from them," Dr. Mamser

said.

Nujoud Fawzi, the president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, stressed that after conducting several workshops in different governorates, "we sensed a definite insistence by many women to improve their skills and fight for their rights."

Also speaking was Ellen Khouri from Al Kutba Institute for Human Development, who reviewed her organisation's aims, stating that in the next three years, Al Kutba will focus on working with women and youth organisations at the local level.

The convention is organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the General Federation of Jordanian Women, and Al Kutba Institute for Human Development.

Outcome of Bosnia vote hailed as a huge success

SARAJEVO (AFP) — After hailing Bosnia's municipal elections as a huge success, international officials Monday faced uncertainty on the outcome of the vote and the even more daunting task of implementing the results.

The ballot count, which began after the two-day polls closed late Sunday, will not be completed for several days as absentee and mail ballots were to be shipped from overseas and sorted at two counting centers under close international supervision.

Although no major surprises are expected when the final results are announced Saturday, there were several instances of suspected fraud, leaving open the possibility that political parties could challenge the polls.

In one instance, for example, several thousand Serbs turned out to vote as

residents of a village of a few hundred homes whose pre-war population was largely Muslim.

Sources told AFP they suspected the Serb authorities had manipulated the highly complex election rules to tip the result in their favour in that area.

There were several other instances during the elections of nationalist parties trying to prevent refugees from voting in areas where the nationalists were likely to lose power.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which organised the polls, has until the end of the year to certify the results. In the meantime, it can order reruns, recounts and other adjustments in municipalities where the vote is challenged.

The OSCE, however, said after the hotly contested

elections that it was satisfied the polls had proceeded smoothly and without violence and did not expect any major obstacles.

"I think overall, the process went very well," said Robert Frowick, head of the OSCE's Bosnia mission.

He added that turnout was high among the 2.5 million people that registered to vote for 136 municipalities in the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Serb statelet that make up Bosnia.

But the real challenge for the international community will come when the vote results have to be implemented, especially in key municipalities where nationalist parties fear losing power.

The polls, billed as the most complex in history, are designed to reverse the results of the brutal 43-month war that forced more

than two million people to flee their homes in campaigns to create ethnically pure territories.

The return of the refugees is a key part of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war and it is hoped the new municipal councils will roughly reflect the pre-war make-up of towns and villages across the country's two entities.

Mr. Frowick agreed that implementing the election results would be critical to the polls' success but insisted that the international community was committed to that process.

"I always just feel a sense of determination to keep going until we achieve the objectives," he said late Sunday. "If you exercise the will to do what is said to be done in the (Dayton) agreements, it will be done."



Paratroopers of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne division, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, parachute from C-17 cargo airplanes over Shymkent, Kazakhstan, Monday as part of Exercise CENTRAZBAT '97. The armed forces of Russia, Turkey and five republics from the former Soviet Union began the first joint military exercises ever with the U.S. (Reuter photo)

U.S. paratroopers land in Kazakhstan in joint exercise

SHYMKENT (AFP) — After flying non-stop for thousands of miles over oceans and continents, U.S. paratroopers jumped from their airplanes here in a joint training exercise with military forces from five other countries, including several former Soviet republics.

Some 1,400 soldiers from the eight countries, including Russia and Turkey, are participating in a six-day mission here called Exercise Centrazbat '97. The exercise is designed to build cooperation for future peacekeeping missions among the participants.

The largest contingents in Monday's jump were 620 U.S. paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. They were joined by 40 members of the newly formed Central Asian Battalion, a unit made up of troops from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

U.S. military officials said

their participation was the longest airborne deployment ever, with U.S. paratroopers flying from their base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina — 12,320 kilometres away — and arriving after 19 hours with three in-flight refuellings.

"The message I would leave is that there is no nation on the face of the earth that we cannot get to," said General John Sheehan, commander of the U.S. Atlantic forces and the first paratrooper to jump.

The defence ministers of the three countries, along with the U.S. ambassador to Kazakhstan, Elizabeth Jones and a small group of dignitaries saw the exercise from a stage perched on an earth mound here.

The training area, located in south-central Kazakhstan, is 640 kilometres west of the Kazakh capital of Almaty.

One of the goals of the exercise is to demonstrate U.S. support for the three

impovertised Central Asian states, a region rich in oil and mineral wealth bordered by hostile or potentially threatening regimes.

Colonel Alexey Riskin of the Kazakhstan army pointed to separatist unrest in other former Soviet republics since the breakup of the Soviet Union six years ago as a good reason to have a joint military force.

"Similar situations and conflicts can arise in every region," he told reporters here, speaking through an interpreter. The 500-strong Central Asian Battalion, he said, is an effort to create a "ready force ... against aggressors. It will allow us to liquidate any conflict situation in its very beginning, and not allow it to grow into a major conflict."

The battalion could also be deployed anywhere in the world for United Nations peacekeeping missions, Col. Riskin added.

In Monday's exercise the paratroopers jump into a

scenario where they must keep armed extremists separated in a fictional country where the United Nations has just arranged for a ceasefire.

At first it was tense for U.S. forces to work with soldiers from the former Soviet Union, recalls Captain Bill Medina of the First U.S. Special Forces Group, based in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Capt. Medina arrived on a training mission to Kazakhstan one year ago.

"For many of them, it was their first contact with the other side," Capt. Medina said.

The tension was eventually broken "by soldiers talking about things soldiers talk about: shooting guns, what they've done in the field," he said. "That's common everywhere." Soon they were exchanging addresses and showing off family pictures, he said.

H. Kong's Chan vows free, fair polls

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's top civil servant Anson Chan vowed Monday that legislative polls in 1998 would be free and fair, and denied allegations that new election rules were designed to keep out pro-democracy forces.

"I'm confident that they will be free, fair, open and governed by rules that are transparent," said Chief Secretary Chan, who is deputy to Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa.

Ms. Chan's pledge, before businessmen at a conference organised by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, follows Mr. Tung's official visit to the United States last week where he met with President Bill Clinton.

While in the United States, Mr. Tung was grilled by congressmen on Hong Kong's legislative polls in May 1998.

Mr. Tung, handpicked by Beijing to lead Hong Kong

after it was handed back to China on July 1, has proposed new ground rules for the elections.

The rules will see the disenfranchisement of some two million voters, and only 180,000 will be eligible to vote.

Under the plan, a third of the 60-seat assembly will be returned through geographical constituencies under a system of proportional representation.

Half of the assembly will be elected by business and professional groups through what are known as "functional constituencies" and 10 will be elected by grass-root bodies.

Critics of the plan have charged that the new rules will prevent pro-democracy figures from repeating the strong showing they enjoyed in the last elections in 1995.

Ms. Chan denied the charges. "What I do not accept is the charge that our

arrangements will set back the course of democracy in Hong Kong or that they have been deliberately designed to include or exclude one or another political party, group or individual, in particular the democrats," she said.

"There is no conspiracy to design a system that is hostile to democratic political forces and heavily weighted in favour of China's capitalist Communists as has been claimed."

While Mr. Tung's administration understood concerns overseas about the elections, Ms. Chan said Hong Kong alone would decide its own pace of democracy.

"Democracy in Hong Kong has not been throttled... civil liberties have not been curbed," she said, adding that there had been 150 demonstrations and protests in Hong Kong since the handover, and not one person had been arrested.

Taleban accuse Russia of supplying missiles to opposition

KABUL (AFP) — The Taleban militia Monday accused Russia of supplying its opponents with long range rockets that now threaten the Afghan capital.

In a statement, the Taleban said a close aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin had visited former Afghan government commander Ahmad Shah Masood to organise the delivery of Lunar rockets.

"With the delivery of Lunar long-range missiles to the opposition, the Russians have enabled them to target Kabul from farther distances, to ruin the people's homes and to kill innocent civilians," the statement said.

It said Yuri Baturin, an adviser to Mr. Yeltsin, recently visited Mr. Masood's Panjshir valley stronghold, the entrance to which is only 90 kilometres from Kabul.

"This weapon was airlifted to Panjshir for the opponents by a military helicopter in the wake of Mr. Baturin's visit," said the statement.

The Taleban said Mr. Baturin's visit indicated Russia's intention to keep Afghanistan — under Soviet occupation from 1979 to 1989 — locked in war.

"The Russian Federation, as the heir to the Soviet Union, intends to take vengeance upon the Afghan people for the humiliating defeat it suffered in the Afghan jihad trenches," the statement said.

It called on the international community to halt what it called the "increasing and flagrant Russian interference" in Afghanistan.

Last week the militia accused France of supplying technicians to service the anti-Taleban alliance's fleet of aged ex-Soviet jets. Tajikistan was accused of allowing enemy jets the use of an airstrip.

The Taleban also see Iran, India and Uzbekistan as conspiring against them.

Opponents of the Taleban say it receives military aid from Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

The Taleban has imposed a puritanical interpretation of Islamic law in the two-thirds of the country it controls.

Powerful typhoon kills one in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Typhoon Oliwa stalled off the coast of Japan's main southwestern island of Kyushu Monday after causing the death of a farmer and snarling transport nationwide, the meteorological agency said.

On Amami Oshima Island, more than 24,000 homes were without electricity after winds cut power lines and destroyed more than a dozen homes, police said.

On Tokunoshima Island, a farmer was found dead late Sunday under a cowshed which had been blown down by the high winds, police said.

The typhoon, packing winds of 144 kph, was Monday north of Okinawa and its advance had

slowed to less than 5 kph the meteorological agency said.

The agency expects the typhoon to pick up speed soon and head north toward Kyushu, covering the island Tuesday.

Powerful winds and heavy rains have already belted parts of Kyushu, with a town in Miyazaki prefecture registering 5.8 cm of rain in one hour.

High waves were hitting most of the country's western coast from Kyushu to central Japan early Monday. Waves eight to 10 metres high pounded some islands.

Most passenger shipping companies had cut ferry services in an area stretching from Tokyo to Okinawa prefecture, southwest of

Kyushu, National Broadcaster NHK reported.

Airlines had cancelled about 225 flights, mostly to and from Kyushu, and the number was expected to grow to more than 270 before the day was over, NHK said.

Passengers across Japan had camped out at airports nationwide because of flight cancellations. Train services in Kyushu and on the Japanese main island of Honshu had also been disrupted, with several lines reporting delays, the broadcaster said.

By noon Tuesday, the recent rainfall on southern Kyushu was expected to total 45 to 50 cm, the agency said.

China to launch H. Kong satellite in October

BEIJING (R) — China is to launch a telecommunications satellite for Hong Kong's APT Satellite Holdings Ltd in early October, a company official said Monday.

A Long March 3B rocket would lift the Apstar 2R into orbit for APT, a Hong Kong-based satellite transponder provider, company secretary Brian Lo said by telephone from Hong Kong.

The launch service pro-

vider, China Great Wall Industry Corp., was conducting preparatory tests at the Xichang launch site in southwestern Sichuan province, Mr. Lo said.

Total cost, including the FS-1300 satellite made by Space System Loral Inc., was expected to reach between \$220 million and \$230 million, he said.

Apstar 2R was capable of covering more than 100 countries in the Asia-Pacific

region, Europe and Africa, Mr. Lo said.

The People's Insurance (Property) Company of China and Ming An Insurance Co. (HK) Ltd. would jointly insure the satellite, he said but declined to say how much it was insured for.

APT has been in talks with the Chinese government about launching Apstar 3D, a direct broadcast satellite, at the end of the century to service China's home users.

Russian reform chief's life threatened

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) has received a tip-off that an attempt may be made to kill economic reform chief Anatoly Chubais, a spokeswoman said Monday.

The spokeswoman at Mr. Chubais's press office confirmed a report by Interfax News Agency which said the first deputy prime minister's personal security had been tightened because of the tip-off.

"There will be no other comment other than what was published by Interfax. That is all," she said.

Mr. Chubais, 42, is one of Russia's most powerful politicians but is hated by many ordinary Russians for his role in overseeing privatisation of the state-controlled economy after the end of Communist rule in 1991.

Some critics say he let Russian assets be

sold cheaply to a lucky few. Others, including heads of some huge companies, say they are being forced into bankruptcy by a drive led by Mr. Chubais to ensure taxes are paid.

His political foes, particularly in the Communist Party, have accused him of trying to usurp power.

Interfax quoted an unnamed FSB official Sunday as the source for its report that an attempt may be made on Mr. Chubais's life. Andrei Trapeznikov, an aide to Chubais, told Interfax the minister's security had been tightened.

"We know about the tip-off that an assassination attempt is being prepared. As a result of this, the first deputy prime minister's security has been strengthened," he said. Mr. Trapeznikov was not available for comment Monday.

Goldwater has early Alzheimer's, report says

PHOENIX (R) — Former Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater, the blunt-speaking, conservative Republican icon, is suffering from the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease, according to a report published Sunday.

Mr. Goldwater, 88, who made a spirited run for the presidency in 1964, also has had five "tiny strokes" since he was hospitalized last September with a major stroke, the Tribune newspaper reported.

The story, written by Goldwater biographer and friend, Jack Casserly, was based on Mr. Casserly's visit to Mr. Goldwater and his wife Susan at the couple's Paradise Valley, Arizona, home early last month.

It also states that Susan

Goldwater said the disease was detected last fall and that a definitive diagnosis came early this year. She also said the former Republican stalwart "thinks he's in Phoenix one day and in Washington, D.C., the next," and has trouble recalling anything but the past, the Tribune said.

Susan Goldwater, a former nurse, added he is "10 to 20 per cent mobile" and needs a wheelchair to go outside the home.

The article reported that Mr. Goldwater has not been informed of his condition and that he shows no signs of knowing. Mr. Casserly also spoke with Mr. Goldwater during the visit.

It also states that Susan

Goldwater is considering visiting Nancy Reagan, whose husband, former President Ronald Reagan, also has Alzheimer's.

Mr. Goldwater, whose shoot-from-the-lip style earned him accolades and respect from party faithful, has been slowed in recent years by age and hip surgery and has gradually slipped into the background of Arizona politics.

But that did not stop a bevy of politicians, including President Clinton and Sen. Bob Dole, from making the pilgrimage to Mr. Goldwater's home during the last election as he was recuperating from his September stroke.

Mr. Goldwater rose to national prominence in

1964 when he ran against Lyndon Johnson with a staunchly conservative platform that contained the rallying cry "extremism in the defence of liberty is no vice."

He lost badly, but emerged as the founder of the modern-day conservative movement and is generally credited with clearing the way for Ronald Reagan to become a major player on the national political scene.

Mr. Goldwater was a member of Arizona's congressional delegation for three decades before his retirement in 1987.

The Tribune is a daily newspaper that serves the suburbs of metropolitan Phoenix.

NYPD Blue, Chicago Hope stars win Emmys

PASADENA (R) — Kim Delaney, who plays a detective on ABC's gritty police series NYPD Blue

and Hector Elizondo, of CBS' equally down-to-earth show Chicago Hope won Emmys Sunday for their performances in supporting roles in a drama series.

Ellen Degeneres, who won an Emmy as part of the writing team for her comedy Ellen, sounded a serious note early on in the proceedings when she made direct reference to the fact that she and her character had come out as lesbians.

"I accept this on behalf of all of the people, and the teenagers especially, out there, who think there's something wrong with them because they're gay."

"Don't ever let anybody make you feel ashamed of who you are," said Degeneres as she accepted the Emmy for best writing for a comedy series.

Delaney was a winner on her first nomination while Elizondo, who plays a hospital administrator on

Chicago Hope, won for the first time after four nominations.

"Thanks to West 107th St. New York for raising me right," he quipped.

Two Britons — Diana Rigg and Tracey Ullman, won Emmys — Rigg for best supporting actress in a miniseries for Rebecca and Ullman for best variety, music or comedy series for Tracey Takes On....

"As the Spice Girls would say 'girl power' I beat the boys," said a jubilant Ullman as she received her award.

Earlier Michael Richards, who plays the kooky, frizzy-haired neighbour Kramer in Seinfeld, and Kristen Johnston who plays an alien on another NBC show 3rd Rock From The Sun, won the Emmys for best supporting actors in a comedy.

Richards won for a third time after five nominations, again beating fellow cast member Jason Alexander, who plays the insecure George Costanza on the hit show and who has never won the Emmy

despite seven nominations.

Accepting his award, Richards paid tribute to his colleagues "Jason, Jerry (Seinfeld) and Julia (Louis-Dreyfus) — what a pleasure it is to work with such a sound ensemble."

Louis-Dreyfus, who won the best supporting actress in a comedy last year, was beaten this year by newcomer Johnston, who plays an Amazonian space alien in human form in NBC's 3rd Rock From The Sun.

When the Emmy nominations were announced in July, HBO led the field with 90, one ahead of NBC. But the broadcast network was later nominated for three more technical awards, giving it a total of 92.

NBC was well in the lead in actual Emmys won after the technical awards were handed Saturday. NBC took 15 Emmys, with CBS and HBO tied with 10 each.

The tremendous inroads made in recent years by the critically acclaimed cable networks has irked the traditional broadcast

networks, which had previously dominated the Emmy Awards. In fact, Home Box Office's good showing this year prompted the networks to lobby the Academy Of Television Arts and Sciences to differentiate in the future between cable productions and over-the-air shows.

With more than 100 Hollywood and TV celebrities attending the show, just two weeks after the death of Princess Diana, security was tight.

Organisers said beforehand that they were carrying out special background checks on all photographers accredited to the event to weed out any so-called paparazzi. Aggressive photographers have been blamed by some for causing the accident that killed the princess Aug. 31.

The awards show was broadcast to over 90 countries around the world and the academy predicted it would be watched by over 600 million viewers.

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An Indonesian man, carrying his daughter, takes a look Monday at the wreckage of an inter-city bus which collided head-on with a dump truck Sunday night. At least 36 people were killed and more than 20 seriously injured after the incident which happened when the bus tried to overtake a tanker truck at a toll road in east Jakarta (Reuters photo)

At least 36 dead in Jakarta bus accident

JAKARTA (AFP) — At least 36 people were killed when an intercity bus collided with a truck on an East Jakarta toll road, an employee at a Jakarta hospital morgue said Monday.

"As of now there are 36 corpses from the accident here," Mardiono told AFP.

Antara news agency said

31 people were killed instantly when the two vehicles collided head-on Sunday night and three others died in hospital.

It quoted police as saying the bus was overtaking a truck when it hit another truck coming from the opposite direction.

The Merdeka daily said

the bus, headed for the Central Java city of Purwodadi, carried around 60 people of whom 27 were injured.

Antara reported that the driver of the truck which collided head-on with the bus was dead.

In March 1994 a bus plunged into a river in

Jakarta, killing 30 people and injuring 11.

In March 1996 an intercity bus caught fire after smashing into a stationary jeep in nearby Bogor, killing 31 people. The driver of the bus was jailed for 18 years for failing to help victims trapped in the vehicle.

Death toll rises to 77 in Indian train plunge

BHOPAL, India (R) — At least 77 people were killed and more than 230 injured when five carriages of an express train plunged from a bridge into a river in central India, railway officials said Monday.

The accident occurred Sunday near Champa town in the east of Madhya Pradesh state, a police official in Bilaspur district, 800 kilometres from the state capital Bhopal said.

"Seventy-seven people are dead and 234 injured in the accident," a Railway Ministry spokesman told Reuters in New Delhi. On Sunday officials said at least 60 had been killed and 200 injured.

"There will be an investigation and it could have been caused by a broken track," said S.B. Ghosh, divisional railway manager at Bhopal. The train was headed for the eastern city of Calcutta from Ahmedabad, capital of Gujarat state in the west.

Officials said there was little water in the Hansdev River and the carriages hit a rocky area. The dry riverbed had possibly reduced casualties, the officials said.

Witnesses told Reuters by telephone that the railway track was under repair just before the crash site. They said the train screamed to a halt, but the first five wagons derailed and plunged

into the river.

Witnesses said one carriage was hanging from the bridge. More than 4,000 curious onlookers and relatives of the victims had gathered at the accident site Sunday night.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said four compartments carrying about 300 passengers and a cargo carriage plunged into the river at around 5:30 p.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday.

Railway Minister Ram Vilas Paswan had ordered an inquiry. Mr. Paswan and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh were visiting the accident site Monday.

Train services in the area

were blocked. The accident was the latest to hit India's railways, which cover a vast network spread over 62,915 kilometres and in 1995/96 carried 123 million passengers.

According to government figures, 594 people died in 398 accidents in the 1995/96 fiscal year that ended on March 31, 1996. The previous year 305 people died in 501 accidents.

In August 1995, at least 350 people were killed in one of the country's worst crashes. Two trains collided in Uttar Pradesh state near the town of Ferozabad, 200 kilometres from New Delhi, in an accident blamed on human error.

U.N. General Assembly session opens today

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. General Assembly opens its 52nd session Tuesday amid deepening gloom about the U.N.'s shaky finances and growing impatience with Washington.

Although U.N. Chief Kofi Annan would like the session to focus on his reform proposals, the problem of U.N. finances remains a live issue with the world body regularly flinching with bankruptcy.

Many U.N. delegates say that their government leaders are likely to issue stern calls to Washington — the organisation's largest contributor but also its largest debtor — to pay its U.N. bills.

Despite a pledge from U.S. President Bill Clinton that his Democratic administration wanted to clear around one billion dollars in U.N. arrears, an authorisation bill has bogged down in the Republican-dominated Congress.

But the Clinton administration did not ask Congress to earmark the full \$1.3 billion that the United States owed to the U.N. as of Dec. 31.

That amount now stands at \$1.5 billion, taking into account the 1997 dues, or almost half of the \$2.6 billion currently owed to the U.N. by member states.

U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson told journalists Thursday that Congress had raised the arrears funds from \$819 million to \$930 million.

But European diplomats were sceptical and one attributed the announcement to "creative accountancy."

An Asian ambassador described the mood as "ugly" among the U.N. delegates who insist that the United States should pay its

New U.N. rights chief vows to speak for victims of injustice

GENEVA (AFP) — U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson vowed on the first day of her new job Monday to act as a voice for victims of injustice worldwide.

"To be a voice for those who are victims of injustice, of cruelty, of issues of human rights around the world," is top of the priority list, the 53-year-old former Irish president told journalists in a brief appearance outside her offices at the U.N.'s European Headquarters.

"I will try to combine the need to be an effective leader of a team that is central to the U.N. presence and the role in human rights and also be very close to those for whom we work."

Ms. Robinson, whose appointment plugged a gap left vacant when the former U.N. Human Rights Chief Jose Ayala Lasso resigned in April to become Ecuador's foreign minister, will serve a four year term.

Ms. Robinson was chosen for her new post by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and the nomination passed muster by the General Assembly this summer.

During her first week in Geneva, Ms. Robinson said she intends to talk to U.N. ambassadors, different U.N. agencies and the press, before leaving Sunday for New York where General Assembly gathers for two weeks of debate.

The U.N. human rights programme is allotted an annual budget of \$24 million. An additional \$20 million a year comes from voluntary funding from member states for specific purposes. Around 160 staff work in the office of the HCHR Geneva headquarters. A similar number are deployed in the field, almost half in Rwanda which is the office's largest overseas operation.

The network also spans Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gaza, Colombia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Cambodia and Abkhazia. "I have a mandate which I'm very determined to fulfil together with team in Geneva and team in the field," Ms. Robinson said.

the negotiations in Congress were unlikely to be finalised soon, and noted that there was a risk that the entire authorisation bill of which the U.N. funds were a part could be derailed.

The Asian diplomat said that news of this possibility now circulating here made it even more unlikely that other U.N. member states would show flexibility towards Washington.

Mr. Annan said he hoped that if Congress retained the controversial benchmarks, "the U.S. administration will have to find a way of managing (the situation) in a manner that does not disrupt the work in this house nor increase tensions among member states."

U.N. officials say that a decision on the new rates which are to apply to member states for the next three years from Jan. 1 has been delayed as a result of the political stalemate.

Western European delegations are particularly upset as they would be forced to make up any shortfall caused by a lowering of the U.S. rate.

Meanwhile, U.N. administrators are forced to dip into a separate peacekeeping account in order to save the U.N. from bankruptcy every few months.

But Mr. Annan's chief financial officer, Joseph Connor, warns that the already desperate situation will soon get worse as the funds in the peacekeeping budget are also diminishing.

Mr. Annan has proposed a "revolving capital fund" in an attempt at a new approach towards the problem. But everybody here agrees that the financing problem would not exist if all 185 member states paid their dues on time.

Ship finds plane debris and German papers, off Namibia

WINDHOEK (R) — Rescuers found wreckage Monday which seemed to come from a German military cargo plane which vanished in the South Atlantic Saturday at the same time and place as a U.S. transport plane.

They said a Namibian ship reported it found wreckage about 142 nautical miles northwest of the Namibian port of Walvis Bay and 60 nautical miles due west of Cape Frio by the northern border with Angola.

"They have found wreckage debris and half an aircraft seat with some German papers. Now they will be intensifying the search," Mogamat Saban, duty port controller at Walvis Bay, told Reuters.

A German military plane, a Soviet-built Tupolev TU-154 with 24 passengers on board, is presumed to have crashed while on a flight to South Africa Saturday.

South African rescuers said it was a calculated guess that it had collided with a U.S. C-141 military cargo plane, carrying nine people, which also vanished in the same area and at the same time, German and U.S. officials said Sunday.

Mr. Saban said Namibia's sea fisheries vessel Tobias Hainyeko which has been in the search area since Sunday night, had found the wreckage at 8:35 a.m. local time (0635 GMT) Monday.

Two South African Air Force planes, a Boeing and a C-130, are also in the area hunting for survivors.

German weather ships were also helping, and Bonn said it was sending other air force planes to the region.

France also dispatched a navy frigate Floreal from nearby Gabon and a sea rescue aircraft.

An indistinct voice apparently issuing a Mayday signal was monitored late Sunday by the French aircraft but a French military spokesman said Monday it may have been a muffled signal from other search planes.

"Nothing allows (U.S.) to say that it came from the missing planes," he said of the broken, barely audible voice monitored on the international radio frequency used for distress calls.

The two aircraft had been on separate missions.

On board the German plane were 12 Marine soldiers, 10 crew members and the wives of two crew members. They had been invited to Cape Town for a regatta celebrating the 75th anniversary of the South African Navy.

German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe said radio contact with the aircraft was lost shortly after 1400 GMT Saturday.

"We can only assume that

the plane has crashed and that all 24 passengers on board are dead," he said.

"It cannot be ruled out that the missing (German) plane possibly collided with an American military aircraft and crashed," a German Defence Ministry spokesman said.

In Washington the Defence Department said a giant U.S. Air Force C-141 was missing off the coast where the Cuncene River, Namibia's border with Angola, runs into the Atlantic.

The C-141 with nine crew members was on its way from Namibia to Ascension Island, where it was due to arrive Saturday at 7:51 p.m. local time.

South African rescue experts said the airspace where the planes went missing was the joint responsibility of South Africa, Angola and Namibia.

30 killed as fire at Indian oil refinery rages

HYDERABAD, India (AFP) — A huge blaze which claimed at least 30 lives and blew out thousands of tonnes of oil and petroleum gas in southern India raged for a second day Monday, officials said.

Huge clouds of black smoke soared into the sky more than 24 hours after the fire broke out following an explosion at the state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd. (HPCL) refinery in the heart of Visakhapatnam city.

Andhra Pradesh state Urban Development Minister B. Sayanarayan Murthy told AFP, adding that five people had died on top of the overnight death toll of 25.

"We hope to bring it under control by evening," he said in a telephone interview from Visakhapatnam, a coastal city about 500 kilometres east of this Andhra Pradesh capital.

About 50 people were hospitalised. Twelve suffered extensive burns.

HPCL, meanwhile, said sabotage may have been the cause. "We have not ruled out sabotage," HPCL spokeswoman Vanita Arte said in Bombay, adding that experts entered the burning refinery early Monday.

Ms. Arte told AFP 11 oil storage tanks had been "burned out. We are trying to save six more and think we will be able to do so."

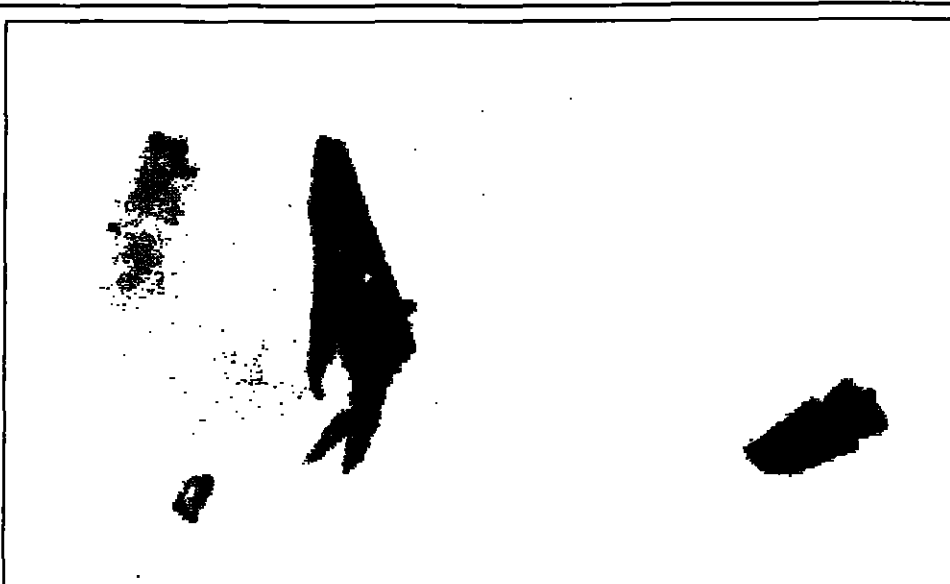
She said petroleum products in the burning tanks were being allowed to "burn" out in controlled conditions. We fear people might still be trapped in the complex though it is difficult to assess the numbers right now.

Indian officials estimated loss of petroleum, kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas from the blaze at \$400 million. Air force planes Sunday flew 45 tonnes of foam and emulsions to help fight the blaze.

The refinery is in a densely-populated industrial belt in Visakhapatnam, which also serves as a major Indian naval base. Most residents took the blast that preceded the fire as an earthquake.

The explosion, heard over a 30-kilometre radius, also damaged a nearby buildings, including a naval headquarters. Some caved in.

"There has been some damage to our headquarters," said Vice-Admiral P.S. Das from the Indian Navy's Eastern Command. "We have to assess the extent of the damage."



The pilot of an F-117A Stealth fighter ejects from his craft just before the plane tumbled to the ground. Amateur video showed parts of the plane breaking off as it started to climb after flying level over the airfield at an airshow. Four people on the ground suffered minor injuries after pieces of the plane fell on houses, but the pilot walked away unharmed (Reuters photo)

'Stealth' fighter crashes in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. Air Force F-117A Stealth fighter broke up and crashed into three houses in Maryland Sunday after the pilot ejected from the aircraft during an air show, the Defence Department said.

Four people on the ground suffered minor injuries after pieces of the plane plunged into the houses, authorities said.

Amateur video showed parts of the plane breaking off as it started to climb after flying level over the airfield outside Baltimore.

The plane then tumbled and rolled, trailing smoke and other material, the videotape showed. A sharp explosion marked the pilot's ejection and the plane then tumbled straight to the ground.

Local emergency officials said there were no fatalities.

"It occurred during a fly-over at an air show," Defence Department spokesman Ken Bacon told Reuters. "The pilot is undergoing emergency treatment."

Mr. Bacon said the black aircraft designed to evade radar detection crashed about 3 p.m. EDT, about a kilometre southeast of Martin State Airport, which is about 21 kilometres east of Baltimore.

No one was killed in the accident, said Pam Miles of the Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Department, which responded to the crash.

Capt. Keri Humphrey, an

air force spokeswoman at the Pentagon, said the pilot of the downed aircraft had parachuted safely and was being taken to Andrews Air Force Base in the Washington suburb of Maryland for observation.

Four people on the ground — one man and three women — sustained minor injuries, said Steve Gisiel, a captain with Baltimore County's Fire Department.

The crash occurred as the plane was performing at the annual Chesapeake Air Show, he said. "It was doing a fly-by for the crowd and suddenly crashed," he said.

The aircraft, which was carrying 4,990 kilograms of fuel, exploded, destroying a house, a garage and two motor vehicles, and damaging two other homes, Mr. Gisiel said.

"It could have been a lot worse," he told Reuters. "It went down in a quiet area."

Fire fighters used foam and water to put out the blaze.

Authorities ordered the evacuation of a three block area as a hazardous materials team scoured the crash site. Up to 50 people were forced from their homes, Mr. Gisiel said.

The investigation will be handled by the air force, he added.

Officials could not immediately determine the cause of the crash, which forced the closing of the airport, but witnesses reported that they saw part of the tail of

the aircraft fall off during flight.

The F-117 was used with devastating effect to drop laser-guided bombs on Iraqi military targets during the 1991 Gulf War. The batwing-shaped aircraft is built of special composite materials which absorb and deflect radar signals. The planes are used to attack at night because they fly slower than the speed of sound.

There are currently about 55 of the single-seat F-117 jets, all based at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, where the plane that crashed was based.

The planes were built by Lockheed Corp before it merged with Martin Marietta Corp. to form Lockheed Martin Corp. They were built as part of a super-secret air force "black" programme, and the first was delivered to the air force in 1982 and the last in 1992.

At least two of the aircraft have previously crashed during training flights.

The little jets are 20.3 metres long and have a wingspan of 13.3 metres. They weigh (23,625 kg) without a weapons load.

The U.S. military is currently looking to the F-22, a new faster-than-sound Stealth fighter, to replace the F-117s after the turn of the century. The F-22, which is being developed by Lockheed Martin, made its first flight in Georgia this month.

U.S. biophysicist admits spying for Russia

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Biophysicist Theodore Hall, the youngest member of the Los Alamos team that developed the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki in 1945, admits in a new book that he passed nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union.

Statements from Mr. Hall, who is now 71 years old and living in Cambridge, England, appear in a new book, "Bombshell: the secret story of America's unknown atomic spy conspiracy."

The book, published by Times Books/Random House, arrives in bookstores this week and will be officially released Oct. 1.

statements from the book were released Sunday.

In over 100 hours of interviews with the book's authors, foreign correspondents Joseph Albright and Marcia Kunstel of the Cox newspaper, Mr. Hall told of his concern about a possible U.S. monopoly on nuclear weapons and said he felt no remorse about sharing information with the Soviets, since they were U.S. allies at the time.

FBI and National Security Agency documents cited in the book show that Mr. Hall was the target of an FBI espionage investigation in the 1950s and 1960s, but was never charged.

No comment was immediately available Sunday from the FBI or the Justice Department.

"During 1944, I was worried about the dangers of an American monopoly of atomic weapons if there should be a postwar depression," Mr. Hall is quoted as saying.

"To help prevent that monopoly I contemplated a brief encounter with a Soviet agent, just to inform them of the existence of the A-Bomb project."

Mr. Hall said he anticipated a very limited contact, but things turned out differently.

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Agenda requires lobbying

THE EFFORT that is being put in compiling a women agenda through the input of all women from different parts of the Kingdom is an excellent learning experience for those involved especially that once the demands are compared, one finds that they are similar if not identical in all parts of the country. That is proof that a national women agenda is both possible and realistic.

Once such an agenda is finalised by law experts, who know what works and what doesn't, and who are able to set priorities, what remains is how to put the agenda in motion.

The fact that the "Convention on Jordanian Women's Demands for the Upcoming Parliamentary Elections" is held at this time, when candidates are launching their campaigns, is a good sign that the organisers of the convention recognise that unless the demands are brought to the attention of the women candidates themselves, the cause of the women may never be considered a major issue at the next Parliament and will probably be ignored again just like it was in the past.

But informing the public that women have demands and providing the candidates with a list of these demands is not enough. What needs to be done is to finalise a comprehensive plan that outlines the specific actions necessary to bring about change, and ensures that women unify their forces behind such an agenda.

This is where the lack of effective lobbies in Jordan is felt most. Whereas in most countries, parliamentary candidates pursue the blessings of major lobbies in order to secure victory, Jordanians have not yet learned to play the political game properly by utilising the power of pressure groups as a weapon that produces the most effective results.

When it comes to the basic principle of equality between men and women, for example, it is of great value for women to ensure that a man candidate has taken a clear position on women's demands before he gets their backing. This is the right time to get such commitment from candidates, but where are the lobbies that are able to secure such commitment?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm called for the establishment of railways communications in Jordan as a means to solve the transportation problem, strengthen the national economy and curtail pollution to the environment caused by vehicle exhaust fumes. Khaled Zubeidi said that railways are badly needed to link Amman with Zarqa and Irbid, in the north, and Aqaba, in the south, and contribute to addressing transport problems in the densely populated areas of the country. Jordan is also in bad need of railways to link the country with the neighbouring countries of Iraq, Syria and Palestine, to promote economic and trade relations and build stronger ties among the Arab people in these countries. The writer blamed the political differences among Arab regimes which, he said, to date prevented the construction of a network of railways to serve the national economy and transport passengers and goods, as is the case with most countries of the world. He said that Jordan is in dire need of investment in this important sector and stressed that the private sector can be encouraged to embark on this lucrative enterprise which will have great benefits for the whole country.

A WRITER for Al Rai said that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's tour of the Middle East was a courtesy visit which achieved nothing though it took place amid an escalation of tension. Hussein Abu Rumman said that the visit enabled the Arab leaders to learn more about the views of the U.S. administration vis-à-vis the stalled Middle East peace process and to realise that Washington is definitely unwilling to come up with ideas to give impetus to the peace-making process. The U.S. is to blame for the deadlock, of course, since it is the sponsor of the peace process and a superpower that has pledged to act as an active partner in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the writer. How long will the U.S. remain passive in this regard and for how long will Washington overlook and condone Israel's illegal actions and its policies that have obstructed the path of a just peace, asked the writer. Indeed, Washington's condoning the Israeli actions and behaviour vis-à-vis the peace process constitutes a cover up for Israel's aggression and an encouragement for Netanyahu's disregard of the international legitimacy, said the writer. He said in the face of this situation, the Arab countries are called on to provide material and other forms of aid to the Palestinians so that they can thwart Israel's objectives and maintain their struggle and steadfastness.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Seeking peace, but still counting the dead and disenfranchised

WHEN IT was all over, personality proved much less significant than policy. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's first trip to the Middle East in the past five days very much continued the political tradition and the diplomatic tone of many similar trips by her predecessors: a clear desire to speak to Israeli and Arab demands in a rather balanced manner, no solid indication that U.S. policy would reflect the same sort of balance, incrementally greater American engagement in the mechanics of Arab-Israeli negotiations, and a combination of positive and negative signs on the ground.

Her visiting the region and personally engaging all sides in negotiations is probably a positive sign, reflecting heightened American interest in the fate of the Arab-Israeli peace making. I say "probably" because the United States' track record in impartiality in the Holy Land remains, like Madeleine Albright's brief baseball pitching career to date, heroic in its intent, impressive in its preparatory zeal, mediagenic in its execution, but very disappointing in its final output. More significant perhaps than trips by herself and Dennis Ross is the now direct participation by U.S. security officials in the bilateral Israeli-Palestinian security committee.

Through such direct involvement in the nitty-gritty of Israeli-Arab negotiations and bilateral contacts, the United States is simultaneously playing the vital roles of facilitator, witness, mediator and judge. It will almost surely have to get off the fence and make its views known on contentious issues, the first of which has been squarely defined by the Israelis: whether the Palestinians are taking effective action against terror. If the American rhetorical tendency towards even-handedness is matched by parallel political and diplomatic balance, then greater U.S. involvement will be a good thing. If not, nobody should be surprised when the cycle of violence increases and seeks out new targets.

The Palestinians have proved yet again both their weakness and their maturity. Their weakness and relative diplomatic isolation have compelled them to respond to the Israeli-American insistence on making anti-terror action the first step towards any reinvigoration of the peace process. Their maturity has allowed them to link their response to the Israeli demands to the question that is most important to the Palestinians and Arabs — stopping the continued expansion of Israeli settlements and colonies in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

The Israeli government's decision Sunday to relax some of the harsh measures it had taken against the Palestinians after the recent bombings in Jerusalem was stated as a direct goodwill gesture and response to stepped-up Palestinian efforts to fight terror. It is good that the Palestinians are fighting terror and the Israelis are rescinding their draconian punitive measures against the

Palestinians; but it is bad that these actions are taking place in a manner that effectively institutionalises an imperial-vassal relationship between Israel and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The Americans should seek to revive sufficient trust between Israelis and Palestinians to get them both to implement the Oslo agreements' provisions in full because both sides see this as the means to a fair and lasting peace. If mutual implementation of Oslo's terms will only occur after Israel unilaterally promotes its security as the priority litmus test and prerequisite of peace-making, without equal importance attached to the rights and demands of the Palestinians and Arabs, then the promise of fair and lasting peace will be washed away in a flood of mutual fears and panic.

Madeleine Albright, Bill Clinton and many other

"Madeleine Albright, Bill Clinton and many other Americans and Israelis have said forcefully that there is no 'moral equivalence' between Arabs killing Israelis and Israelis expanding their settlements. This is correct, for killing people is clearly a more odious moral act than taking someone's land. Though philosophically compelling, moral equivalence is also rather peripheral, for the conflict we suffer is not primarily a moral one. It is a political and national struggle between Zionism and Arabism, between the national rights of the Jewish people and the national rights of the Palestinians and other Arabs."

Americans and Israelis have said forcefully that there is no "moral equivalence" between Arabs killing Israelis and Israelis expanding their settlements. This is correct, for killing people is clearly a more odious moral act than taking someone's land. Though philosophically compelling, moral equivalence is also rather peripheral, for the conflict we suffer is not primarily a moral one.

It is a political and national struggle between Zionism and Arabism, between the national rights of the Jewish people and the national rights of the Palestinians and other Arabs. The more pressing equation that must be appreci-

ated and addressed is political equivalence: the respective political responses that are elicited in Israel by Arab terror, and in Palestine by Israeli colonisation and confiscation of Arab lands.

The costs of political equivalence are mutually high. Yesterday, Monday, was rather typical in this respect: two Israeli soldiers were killed in southern Lebanon, and some Israeli Jews moved into homes in the Ras El Amoud district of predominantly Arab East Jerusalem. Israel's continued determination to ensure the security of its citizens through occupying Arab lands has, ironically, only increased the number of Israeli dead. A total of 33 Israelis have been killed in southern Lebanon this year to date (not counting the scores of other Israelis killed in military accidents associated with Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon). The moral issues in southern Lebanon are fascinating; the political and human consequences are terrible for both Lebanese and Israelis. So, do we talk morality, or something else?

The Israeli insistence on the right of Jews to settle and live in any part of what they consider to be the biblical land of Greater Israel has now become the single greatest source of bitterness and even hatred towards Israelis and Jews by Palestinians and Arabs. It is not coincidental that the Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli peace process effectively stopped in March in response to the Israeli decision to construct what Israel says is a new Jewish neighbourhood at Har Homa, near Jerusalem, and what the Palestinians see as a new Jewish colonial settlement in the Arab district of Jabal Abu Ghneim. Jewish settlements in the Jerusalem area are the only real red line that the Palestinians have ever drawn.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser David Bar-Ilan said earlier this week that Israelis could not freeze settlements because they could not freeze life. The analogy is intriguing and incomplete. Its full dimensions should reflect the reality of both the Israelis and the Palestinians, who are like Siamese twins destined to spend their lives in close proximity to one another, perpetually sharing vital organs like Jerusalem, water and the sea. In such a context, extended life to one twin can mean death to the other. Or, a way can be found for both to enjoy life.

Madeleine Albright's visit has emphasised the fact that the interests of both sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and of both principal partners in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, must be addressed with simultaneous urgency and importance, if the rights of either side are to be achieved. On the rhetorical and symbolic level, her visit has been positive and useful. On the political level, we will watch closely to see if her good words are matched by equally fine deeds. In the meantime, we will continue to count the dead, the dispersed and the disenfranchised, in both Israeli and Arab lands.

Israel disregards international laws, has racial policies for the Palestinians

By Lu'ayy Minwer Al-Kimawi

Following is the second of a series of articles and excerpts from work due for publication in the forthcoming issue of the 1997 Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Laws, London, UK, dealing with the issue of Israeli civilian settlements in light of recent political developments. The author, who contributed the article to the Jordan Times, is a law doctoral researcher in regulation of Arab securities markets and a Tutorial Fellow and part-time teacher of international law at the London School of Economics, University of London:

ISRAEL HAS traditionally applied discriminatory and racial policies directed against the Palestinians. These policies are embodied in the Citizenship Law of 1952, the 1974 Entry to Israel Regulations, the Population Registry Law, the Law of Return, the Status Law of 1952, etc. Moreover, the legal authority for determining who is entitled to reside in Jerusalem rests in the hands of the Israeli interior minister. For example, if Israelis are exempt from such restrictions, Palestinians residing in Jerusalem must, *inter alia*, obtain a re-entry visa if they do not want to risk losing their right of return, must have a valid Jerusalem Identity Card if they want to register their children as Jerusalem residents, must not live abroad for more than seven years, otherwise they automatically lose their residency rights, and must not apply for residency/citizenship elsewhere, otherwise they lose their right to reside in Jerusalem.

However, out of 170,000 Palestinians who hold Jerusalem residency cards today, Israel has revoked almost around 3,900 since 1967. Moreover, almost 700

Jerusalem residency cards were revoked in 1996, the highest number of revocations since 1967. It is also feared that new, restrictive Israeli policies in Jerusalem may eventually lead to 120,000 Palestinians living in Jerusalem (70 per cent of Arab Jerusalemites) losing their residency cards. Local Palestinian sources also estimate that building restrictions and housing shortages in Jerusalem have forced between 40,000 to 60,000 Palestinians to move out into nearby villages.

However, as a result of Israeli depopulation practices, it is estimated that the Arab majority in Jerusalem has dwindled by 70 per cent. Needless to say, according to B'Tselem, Palestinians are allowed to build on less than 20 per cent of the areas Israel occupied in 1967. In the areas in which building is allowed, municipal zoning laws prohibit construction of buildings that are more than four stories high. In addition, and in order to complicate things further, Israel imposes very high licensing fees on Palestinians who want to build or expand their houses in Arab East Jerusalem.

It is estimated today that since 1967, the number of Israeli settlers in Arab East Jerusalem has grown to constitute 76 per cent of the total increase in Jerusalem's Jewish population. Moreover, Arab East Jerusalem now contains 10 major settlements. These settlements are: Ramot (39,000 inhabitants), Gilo (30,000 inhabitants), Pisgat Ze'ev (30,000 inhabitants), Neve Ya'acov (20,000 inhabitants), Mt. Scopus (18,000 inhabitants), French Hill (9,000 inhabitants), Ramat Eshkol (6,500 inhabitants), Mt. Scopus (5,000 inhabitants), Ma'lot Dafna (4,606 inhabitants) and Old City (2,300 inhabitants). However, even after the signing and the partial implementation of the Oslo

accords, Israel still remains in control of 72 per cent of Area C and 27 per cent of Area B in the West Bank, while retaining 40 per cent of the Gaza Strip, though latest estimates put settlements at around 150, with almost 160,000 settlers.

Despite the ongoing peace process, an analysis by the Israeli army, which was presented to the Israeli cabinet on Feb. 10, 1997, identified its final status requirements. The requirements included permanent presence of the Israeli army in settlement blocks in the northern West Bank and the Jerusalem region, control of major east-west and north-south West Bank arteries and control of the Jordan Valley and the border with Jordan.

International conventions which proscribe Israeli settlements building

The occupied territories comprise the West Bank (including Arab East Jerusalem, which was formally annexed by Israel in 1980), the Gaza Strip and the occupied Golan Heights. Israel's control of these areas has never been sanctioned by international agreement. Israeli measures annexing Arab East Jerusalem, as enshrined in the 1980 Israeli Basic Law and subsequent legislation, were declared null and void by Security Council resolutions 465 (March 1, 1980), 476 (June 30, 1980), 478 (Aug. 20, 1980) and General Assembly resolutions 35/169E (Dec. 15, 1980), 36/15 (Oct. 28, 1981), 36/120E (Dec. 10, 1981). Moreover, on more than one occasion, UNESCO (in resolution 15C/3.43 of 1968, resolution 11.3 of 1985, resolution 5.4.1 of 1986 and resolution 11.6 of 1987) declared Israeli attempts at altering the Arab and Islamic character of Arab East Jerusalem null and void. However, settlements activities also include construct-

ing ring roads and bypass roads between Israeli civilian settlements inter se and between them and other Israeli cities. For example, the current constructing of a new bypass road after the confiscation of 65 dunums (65,000 square metres) west of Betoniah village near Ramallah. Illegal settlements activities also encompass infrastructural projects, such as Israeli government's construction of a four-lane highway in the West Bank which encircles East Jerusalem and its expropriation of large lands in order to connect the West Bank settlement of Maale Adumim to settlements in the north of Arab East Jerusalem.

Brief overview of international rules applied to military occupations

Generally speaking, the laws on occupation are enshrined in: the laws of war; the 1907 Hague Regulations (hereinafter the Hague Regulations); the 1954 Hague Cultural Property Convention and Protocol; the 1949 Geneva Conventions; and the 1977 Geneva Protocol 1 (hereinafter the 1977 First Geneva Protocol). Laws of war draw no distinction between lawful and unlawful occupations. For example, in US v. List (the Hostage Case), it was suggested that laws of war were applicable even without discrimination against the aggressor. Neither is their applicability affected by the characterisation of the actual hostilities as a state of war, or mere use of force. Protecting the civilian population from the oppression of the occupant and limiting its factual power is the hallmark of the law on belligerent occupation.

Due to the prolonged nature of the Israeli occupation, many complications have arisen and traditional international conventions on occupation cannot

always provide comprehensive remedies. It has therefore been suggested that "those provisions of human rights treaties (for example, the International Covenant on Human Rights 1966, generally, and Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights 1951) from which no derogation is permitted, protect basic humanitarian standards rather than rights such as freedom of speech and assembly."

The Israeli occupation of the Arab territories is technically characterised as a "belligerent occupation" or *occupatio bellica*. The key distinguishing characteristics of belligerent occupation are that it: "(a) by belligerent states; (b) of a territory of an enemy belligerent state; (c) during the course of an armed conflict; and (d) before any general armistice arrangement is concluded." Morgenstern also suggested that "belligerent occupation is a legal regime circumscribed by the limits which international law places on the authority of the occupant."

The 1907 Hague Regulations

Israeli courts and legal literature have accepted the de jure applicability of the Hague Regulations, as Israel has characterised them as customary international law, like in the Beth El case where, in light of Dinstein's article "The Judgement in the Matter of Pithat Rafiah", the court was of the opinion that the 1907 Hague Regulations are generally regarded as customary international law. For his part, Dinstein has stated that "the provisions of the Hague Regulations must be regarded nowadays as declaratory of general (customary) international law." Moreover, the Israeli High Court, in its decision in the Cooperative Society Case, stated that "the Hague

Regulations are generally regarded as declaratory of customary international law and that they form part of Israeli internal law and are directly enforceable in Israeli courts."

The 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention

Israel signed the Geneva Conventions on Dec. 8, 1949, and, with reservation, ratified them on July 6, 1951. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan acceded to them on April 21, 1953. Egypt signed them on Dec. 8, 1949, and ratified them on Nov. 10, 1952. Syria signed them on Aug. 12, 1949, and ratified them on Nov. 2, 1953. It has been persuasively argued that the 1949 Geneva Conventions in general constitute customary international law and that "by definition, every provision of the Convention (the Fourth Geneva Convention) forms an integrated part of international law."

Some legal opinion suggests that the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention "was intended to be and should be interpreted as a people-oriented convention, and not a territory-oriented convention." Moreover "the protection of the Fourth Geneva Convention is vouchsafed to every civilian in the occupied territories who is stateless."

Israel has nevertheless contended its de jure applicability and conceded to applying de facto its "humanitarian provisions". Shamgar, while serving in the post of attorney general, once opined that "the automatic applicability of the Fourth Convention to territories administered by Israel is, at least, extremely doubtful." In the Cooperative Society Case, the Israeli High Court was of the opinion that "unlike the Hague Regulations, the 1949 Geneva Convention does not form part of Israeli Internal law."

Space-storm warning fans fear of millennium chaos

Electronic storms in the solar wind could add to the impact of the computer time-bomb linked to the year 2000. As scientists grapple with the problem, a controversial weather forecaster exerts efforts to pinpoint predictions of the threat from space.

By Sharon Gerein

LONDON — Computer experts racing to prevent the "millennium bug" from causing chaos to the world's information systems are being alerted to an extra threat — from outer space.

The year 2000, besides baffling the many computers equipped with only two digits to record dates, is also likely to see the next major space storm to affect the Earth.

Space storms are intensifications and disturbances in the solar wind of magnetically charged particles flowing from the Sun. They have the power to shut down electricity and telecommunications systems, and scientists are

concerned about the combination of a major storm — or "solar maximum" — and the computer time-bomb.

The millennium nightmare scenario is that satellites could be badly damaged, cutting communications, while power supplies are being disrupted and computer systems are crashing or going haywire.

Scientists are seeking ways to defuse the twin threat. "What is known is that the activities that cause solar winds have the potential to cause massive damage to spacecraft in space and can cause problems on Earth with electrical systems such as power lines," says Ron Thomas, a manager with the European Space Agency in Amster-

dam, who has worked on a solar observation project.

A space storm is not like a hurricane, but an electrical force that can last for minutes or even days, and can prove devastating to sensitive equipment. Storms occur infrequently and are linked to the 11-year cycle of solar activity. The last solar maximum, in 1989, knocked out a power grid in Quebec, Canada, leaving nearly seven million people without electricity for several days.

While nothing can stop a storm, an accurate prediction could assist in preventing damage, and one unconventional weather forecaster in Britain is on the case.

Piers Corbyn, a London physicist, is already making a good living out of providing businesses with long-range weather forecasts based on his observations of solar activity.

Traditional meteorologists are sceptical of his work, but Mr. Corbyn says he can produce accurate and detailed forecasts for up to 11 months in advance. He says: "If we can accu-

ately predict these (space) storms, it could prove to be a very lucrative industry." There is vast potential to do business with insurance companies and organisations owning satellites.

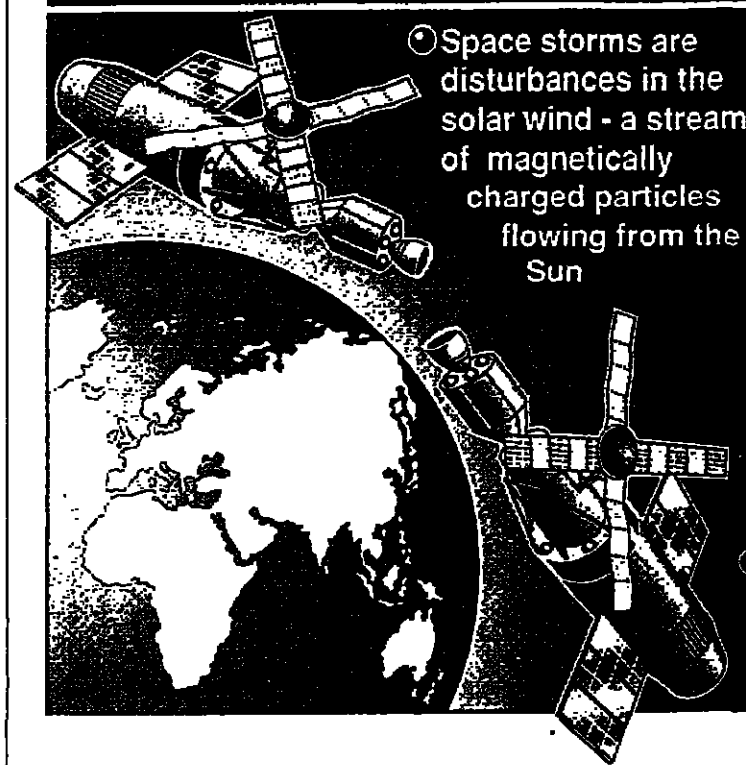
One space storm could damage or destroy a satellite worth millions of dollars. It could prove life-threatening to astronauts in spacecraft.

More than 1,400 satellites orbit the Earth. They are used for military and mapping applications, scientific experimentation and observation, telecommunications, weather monitoring and navigational purposes.

In 1994, three telecommunications satellites were knocked out of service by a space storm. The breakdown to the Telesat ANIK E-1, E-2, and INTELSAT-K disrupted broadcasting services in Europe and North America. Transmissions of credit-card transactions, electronic paging requests, television and radio broadcasts were temporarily halted.

In 1996, another telecommunications satellite, Telstar 401, was destroyed.

An ill wind



Space storms are disturbances in the solar wind — a stream of magnetically charged particles flowing from the Sun.

Storms are likely at periods of peak solar activity and could destroy satellites or spacecraft.

Scientists have yet to determine if the loss was due to a design failure or a space storm. The satellite, which was insured, will cost more than \$130 million to replace.

Paul Churchill, a London underwriter who insures satellites, suggested to Mr. Corbyn that he turn his hand to predicting space storms.

"There are about 1,400 satellites and only half are insured," says Mr. Churchill. "If we know

when and where a space storm will hit, and with what impact, it would allow the industry to insure for risks or take precautionary measures to protect the satellite."

Accurate prediction of an intense space storm would enable operators to reposition the device or shut it down and switch to alternative satellites out of the storm's range.

Mr. Corbyn has conducted two public trials. "One was highly successful, the

other was marginally successful," he says. "We still need to do more research and to conduct more trials."

The space forecasts he can provide are not detailed. "It's a bit like saying there will be a flood, but we can't say precisely what areas will be hit, how much flooding will occur or exactly when it will happen."

Mr. Churchill, however, believes that it will be only a matter of time and money before Mr. Corbyn and his

10 assistants are able to fine-tune the forecasts.

"When it comes to the weather, he is absolutely right on," says Mr. Churchill. "He has a great product and the business potential is huge. If he can continue to increase his accuracy in predicting the long-range weather on Earth, then presumably he should be able to predict accurately what's going to happen in space."

Gemini News Service

Israel to lift blockade, release PNA funds

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians from travelling between towns in the West Bank, was imposed on Sept. 4 after a bombing in Jerusalem which killed five Israelis.

The government has also decided to ease slightly a security closure preventing Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from travelling to Israel, first imposed after another bombing in July.

Israel will allow some 2,300 Palestinians back into Israel, including traders, medical and religious officials and employees of international organisations, military sources said.

But the other 60,000 Palestinians with a permit

to work in Israel, effectively unemployed because of the closure, are still banned from entering Israel, they said.

Mr. Bar-Ilan also announced that Israel will release about half the amount of funds in the form of tax revenue and customs duties it refused to pay as part of economic sanctions imposed after the July bombing.

He said the PNA had agreed to the creation of a "control mechanism" with the U.S. to ensure that arrested Islamists "are not immediately freed."

While insisting that the PNA commit to fight against terror, Ms. Albright also criticised Israel for its "unilateral" steps against

the Palestinians and said she understood the suffering caused by the economic sanctions.

"I've made my views known that while I understand there are some actions the Israeli government believes it must take for security reasons because of terrorist attacks, I don't believe the holding back of revenues falls into that category," she said Thursday.

Last week the PNA sought emergency aid from countries that provide funds after its deficit blew out to \$120 million.

Meanwhile, Mr. Netanyahu will also veto plans by a Jewish-American millionaire to build around 70 homes for Jews in Ras Al Amoud, at the foot of the

Mount of Olives in Arab east Jerusalem.

"The prime minister considers that it is not a good time for the project and he will invoke reasons of security or the public interest to oppose its launch," Mr. Bar-Ilan said.

An Israeli interior ministry committee had earlier rejected an appeal against construction of the settlement project, which was approved by Jerusalem's right-wing Mayor Ehud Olmert in July.

Israel's decision to start building in March on another 6,500 unit Jewish settlement project in Arab east Jerusalem provoked the current crisis in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Israeli settlers move in eastern Jerusalem; block Hebron road

(Continued from page 1)

Opposition leader Ehud Barak said the government must evict the settlers. "We are a state of law and citizens do not lead their government by the nose on the most sensitive, explosive issues so that other citizens can pay for it with their personal safety."

His Majesty King Hussein said after meeting Ms. Albright Sunday that the region faced "explosions" in the absence of peace

talks.

Ms. Albright rattled Israeli officialdom last week with a surprise public call for a "time-out" in settlement expansion.

Israel flatly rejected the plea, countering it could no more freeze settlement than "freeze life."

Meanwhile, Israeli settlers Monday blocked a road linking their enclave with the rest of Hebron to protest plans to reopen the artery to Palestinian traffic, witnesses said.

Israeli police have begun towing away the 10 cars which blocked Shuhada (Martyrs') Street, said the sources.

The settlers oppose renovation of the street which connects the 20 per cent of Hebron occupied by Israel with the remainder of the city, which is governed by the PNA.

The municipality is enlarging the street and improving the sewerage system and lighting with U.S. aid, in order to reopen

it to Palestinian vehicles.

Israel closed the street after the February 1994 massacre by an extremist Jewish settler of 29 Palestinians at prayer.

The street was partially reopened under the agreement signed in January handing 80 per cent of Hebron over to the PNA but leaving Israeli troops in the remaining 20 per cent to guard the 400 militant Jewish settlers living in enclaves there.

Jordan must build sound economy — Crown Prince

(Continued from page 1)

achieve sustainable economic growth.

"The tigers of Southeast Asia, the United States, Britain and Poland, are among such countries," he said.

However, the Crown Prince emphasised that "experience has shown that a sound industrial policy is the major engine for economic development." "This policy must be flexible, dynamic and forward looking."

"It must be articulated by all those involved in the economy, with the government's role limited to that of catalyst. This policy must benefit from the free flow and exchange of information, a comprehensive knowledge base and a continuous assessment of market needs," the Crown Prince said.

The Crown Prince emphasised that it should be the private sector that must take the lead in propelling economic growth. "But the maximisation of the involvement of the private sector requires administrative reforms that ensure accountability and transparency."

He also emphasised the "importance of well-trained and qualified human resources." "Human resources are the main pillar of economic development."

He added that Jordan which has for long realised the "importance of investing in the education and training of its human resources," faces the challenge of tapping this investment "in order to achieve higher productivity and more efficient management resources."

While avoiding to underestimate the success that Jordan has made in the various economic and development fields, "our economic achievements must reflect on all segments of society," the Prince stressed.

"Our economic reform programme has been a showcase for the IMF, but people cannot eat fundamentals."

"The human being and his well-being are the objectives of development." That is why Jordan adopted earlier this year its Social Productivity Package, "which is a comprehensive and an all-inclusive plan at increasing the quality of life for the less fortunate sectors of society," Prince Hassan explained.

The Science Week, the Crown Prince stressed, benefited from Japan's industrial experience, Canada's development of its civil service and the United Kingdom's development of quality control.

"We hope it (the Science Week) will make positive contribution to plans for the

development of our national economy, through identifying points of weakness and proposing new courses of action," the Crown Prince said.

The Prince concluded by urging the participants to come up with recommendations that would include "practical mechanism that will help bring about a qualitative jump in the performance of our national economy."

The activities of this week's science conference were preceded by three roundtable meetings in the past few weeks that focused on the industrial policy in the Kingdom in comparison to the Japanese and Canadian experiences and tackled issues related to civil service, transparency and accountability, according to Ranwa Khatib, the coordinator of information at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) which organised the event.

Also, addressing the opening session, was Said Aloush, president of the RSS.

Dr. Aloush explained that the science weeks that are held annually aim to translate scientific theories that pertain to different human endeavours into concrete actions.

The first Science Week held in 1993 was under the title of "Science and Technology for Development Services: Towards More

Self-Reliance." The 1994 conference was entitled "The National Policy for Science and Technology and the Role of Defensive Resources in Development."

The third was called "Land Resources for Optimal Use," the fourth week in 1996 was under the title of "Man and Earth: Human Resources Towards Harmony, Land Resources Towards Integration."

This year's week is being attended by Jordanian and international experts in order to discuss various national issues and devise recommendations to promote the quality of work, increase productivity and introduce transparency, Ms. Khatib explained.

Also, addressing the meeting was Thabet Al Taher, a former minister and president of the conference's steering committee.

"Jordan is going to face challenges in its efforts to liberalise its economy," Mr. Taher said in his opening speech.

Mr. Taher said that these challenges will take place as Jordan will soon sign a partnership agreement with the EU and join the WTO.

He added that this will require serious efforts to increase the Kingdom's competitiveness and to raise the level of its products and services to international standards.

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Eight sewage contracts signed Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Monday signed eight sewage contracts, four for constructing sewage networks in Amman and Irbid, and the rest for supervising sewage projects in Amman, Zarqa, and Mafrag and the construction of a related laboratory.

One of the agreements, which concerns the construction of a sewage main at Qasleh, Turkman, Isheh and Barha in the Irbid governorate, entails laying a 3,300-metre network and 4,500 metres of pipelines to link the main with residential homes.

The cost of the first agreement is JD1.481 million, 80 per cent of which will be financed through loans from the German Development Bank, with the rest from the ministry.

The project is to be completed in 540 days.

The second agreement entails laying an 850-metre network at Afrah, Zibdeh and the doctors' estate in the Irbid region. The cost of the second project will be JD1.489 million, 80 per cent of which will be provided in loans from Britain, with the rest from the Water Authority.



Ministry of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin (second from right) Sunday signs contracts with representatives of local companies (Petra photo)

Work is also to be completed in 540 days.

The third agreement concerns laying 13,600 metres of sewage mains through the Greater Amman region and Sweileh, at a cost of JD496,480.

The project is to be finished in 210 days.

The fourth agreement

concerns laying 19.2 kilometres at Marj Al Hamam, Yasmin' and Tabrabour in the Amman area at a cost of JD671,190, to be completed in 300 days.

The sewage supervision projects in the Amman region will cost JD106,960, in Zarqa JD149,760, and in Mafrag JD38,548.

Supervision of the construction of the central laboratories will cost JD76,700.

The contracts were signed by Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin and the general managers of the local firms.

Ministry plans for research centre to manage energy resources

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is planning to establish a national energy research centre that will take charge of all issues associated with the development of energy resources, including the oil shale that is found in abundance in Jordan, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Horani said Monday.

Oil shale deposits, found mainly in the Lejun area and around the Aqaba Desert Highway, are estimated at 50 billion tonnes, enough to produce 35 billion barrels of crude oil, the minister said.

The oil shale found here is high quality and can be

exploited for electricity generation through burning, or can be used to produce oil, he said.

The ministry has been in contact with specialised centres in the U.S., China, Australia, Canada, and others to help Jordan utilise the oil shale, but studies have proven that extracting oil is not commercially profitable at the present, especially in light of the current crude oil prices, the minister continued.

Referring to oil prospecting, the minister said the foreign firms that were granted concessions to explore oil and natural gas have been prospecting since 1981, but have not yet succeeded in striking oil.

In 1984, small amounts of oil

were found at the Hamzeh fields in the Azraq region and in 1986 natural gas was found at Al Rishbeh district, near the Jordan-Iraq border, he said.

The gas is being utilised to produce modest amounts of electricity, covering only five per cent of the country's electric power needs, he explained. On relations with Iraq in energy and oil matters, he said, Iraq continues to supply crude oil and natural gas at prices lower than those of the international markets.

The Kingdom imports 4.2 million tonnes per annum of

oil and oil products, including liquefied gas, according to the minister.

Dr. Horani explained that work is underway to link the national energy grids of Egypt and Jordan, a step which is to be followed by linking Jordan with Syria, and later with Iraq and Turkey.

The cost of the entire project will amount to nearly \$1.500 million, with work on the five countries' linkage to be completed by the year 2002, the minister concluded.

Kuwait to establish \$133m 2nd telecom firm

KUWAIT (AP) — The government is planning to establish a telecommunications company with a capital of around 40 million dinars (\$133.33 million) and later sell most of it to the public, Al Watan daily reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted the communications minister, Jassem Al-Aoun, as saying the cabinet was expected to make a final decision this week on funding the company. He said the government would keep about 24 per cent of the shares and offer the rest to the public.

The company would become Kuwait's second in telecommunications and would end the monopoly enjoyed by the Mobile Telecommunications Co. (MTC) over cellular phones and pagers, which are in high demand here. MTC is partly owned by the government.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7605	0.6224	1.4487	120.24	1.3916	1716.30	1.9624
DE Mark	0.5680	-	0.3536	0.8223	65.37	0.7587	574.73	1.1256
GB Sterling	1.6042	2.8263	-	2.3232	192.30	2.2324	2756.38	3.1818
Ch Franc	0.8903	121.50	0.4259	-	83.02	0.9001	1184.06	126.87
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4638	0.5178	1.2038	-	1.1564	14.28	164.85
CA Dollar	0.7186	1.3067	0.4555	1.0739	1.16	-	1272.34	1.4717
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0258	0.3825	0.8044	1430.41	0.8108	-	11.55
FR Franc	0.2644	88.81	0.3141	73.04	80.59	0.7016	865.19	-
NL Guilder	0.1691	0.2975	0.1063	24.6557	20.31	0.2351	33.50	33.5000

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7504	0.3770	3.6398	0.3041	3.6705	1529.50
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2897	0.5317	5.1337	0.4288	5.1770	2157.28
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1605	0.97	0.0611	0.98	407.82
Bahraini Dinar	2.65	1.8806	9.9480	-	9.85	0.9865	9.74	4057.03
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0835	1.01	420.22
Kuwait Dinar	3.2889	2.3319	12.3348	1.2399	11.97	-	12.07	5030.42
Emirate Dinar	0.2724	0.1932	1.0218	1.0227	0.9910	0.0828	-	416.70
Lebanese 1000	0.85	0.4636	2.4520	0.2465	2.3797	0.1888	2.3998	-
Egyptian	0.2952	0.2093	1.1071	0.1113	1.0745	0.0898	1.0835	451.51

Energy

Oil	Barrel	Price
Brant	18.34	18.49
W. Texas	18.31	18.34
Bonny	18.34	18.49
Dubai	17.70	17.85
UL Gas	208.00	0.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4697	0.1662	0.3864	32.082
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.46	0.1888	0.3948	32.78
KW Dinar	3.2889	5.7837	2.05	4.7684	395.73
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.8729	1.6534	3.8447	319.18
CY Pound	1.9142	3.3709	1.1925	2.7721	230.11

Metal Prices

Metal	Price	Change
Gold (oz's)	321.9	322.4
Silver (oz's)	4.72	4.74
Platinum (oz's)	424.1	426.1
AL (3 Months)	1612	1613
CU (3 Months)	2110	2111
Zinc (3 Months)	1407	1409
Lead (3 Months)	643	644
Ni (3 Months)	6490	6495

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Currency	Rate	Change
USD	5.57	5.59
GBP	7.09	7.00
JPY	0.45	0.46
DEM	2.99	3.12
FRF	3.06	3.27
CHF	1.18	1.31
ITL	6.53	6.59

Main Equity Indices

Index	Value	Change	% Chg	High	Low	Open
New York	DOW JONES	7781.29	38.32	0.49	7794.5	7739.5
New York	S&P 500	927.58	3.87	0.4	928.9	922.84
London	FT-SE 100	4902.9	54.7	1.13	4902.9	4848.2
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	17965.8	-316.43	-1.73	18216	17803
Paris	CAC 40	2898.82	64.55	2.28	2902.4	2842.9
Frankfurt	DAX	3820.13	-34.68	-0.9	3874.1	3803.8

Energy

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Coffee (c/lbs)	184.42	Spot	
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1674	Spot	
Sugar (\$/ton)	316	Spot	
Wheat (\$/ton)	139	Spot	
Soya (c/lbs)	22.48	Spot	
Tea (c/kg)	150	Spot	
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot	
Rice (\$/ton)	430	Spot	

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1345	1.1402
DE Mark	0.3975	0.3985
Ch Franc	0.4817	0.4841
FR Franc	0.1182	0.1188
JP Yen	0.586	0.5889
NL Guilder	0.3529	0.3547
IT Lira	0.4072	0.4092

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

DOG MISSING

A four-month-and-a-half Boxer dog was lost on Wednesday in Shmeisani. It is brown with black face. Whoever finds it or inform about it will be given an award of JD300.

Please call Tel. 079/39234

KUWAIT (AP) — The government is planning to establish a telecommunications company with a capital of around 40 million dinars (\$133.33 million) and later sell most of it to the public, Al Watan daily reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted the communications minister, Jassem Al-Aoun, as saying the cabinet was expected to make a final decision this week on funding the company. He said the government would keep about 24 per cent of the shares and offer the rest to the public.

The company would become Kuwait's second in telecommunications and would end the monopoly enjoyed by the Mobile Telecommunications Co. (MTC) over cellular phones and pagers, which are in high demand here. MTC is partly owned by the government.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



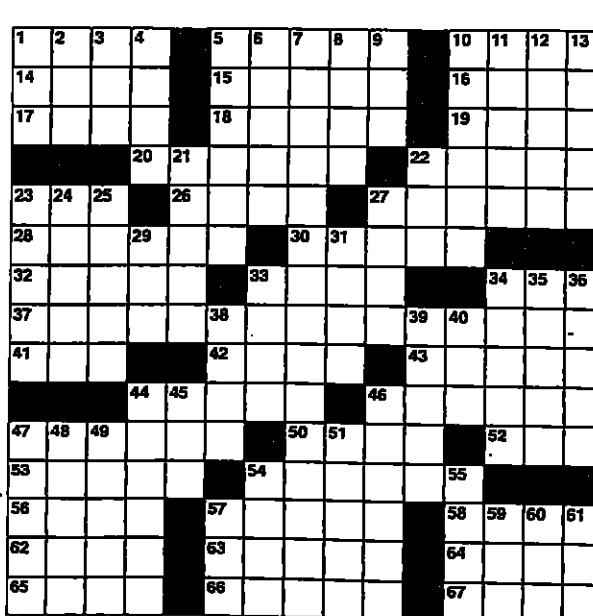
THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

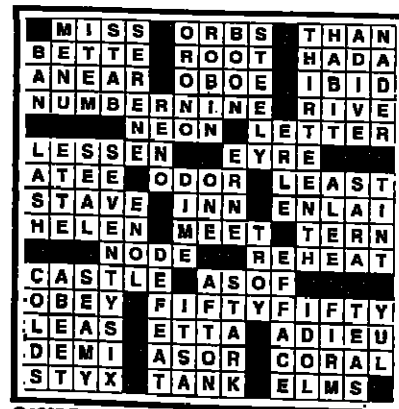
- Marsalis' medium
- Without — in the world
- Elkini tops
- Spread
- , so good
- Bridge position
- Highlander
- Classic Ladd film
- Domini
- On the train
- Of greater scope
- Resort
- English composer
- Hash house
- Natural endowment
- Author Eudora
- Listing
- Boat wood
- Fruit drink
- Hemingway novel
- Heir
- With skill
- Near
- Sausage
- Walk nimble
- Inferior
- Molding
- At all times, poetically
- "Lou Grant"
- Saga or epic
- 21 African tribe
- Toque or cloche
- 23 RBIs and ERAs
- Disease, pref.
- Foreigner
- Nevada town
- Emile of golf
- Lenient
- 33 Keep — on (watch)
- Together
- Lowly card, often wild
- Organic compound
- Not one
- Street show
- Basketball pioneer, Hank
- Garden implement

DOWN

- Trot
- Wing
- Letter
- Author Emile
- Separate into classes
- "Over There" songwriter



by Al Becker



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- Fleet inits.
- Certain friend
- Studies hard
- Something often wreaked
- Madonna film
- Complain
- Tame expletive
- Civil righter.
- Parks
- Had lunch
- Greek god
- 60 Astern
- Garland

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) People are frantic. They can't seem to figure out what they need. If you don't get organized, you'll add to the confusion. Make sure the people who need whatever you're providing have it in time. No point in causing any heart attacks, yours or theirs.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) It could be terribly hard to decide whom to have lunch with. Everybody wants you, and none of them can bear the thought of sharing you with anybody else. You may have to schedule somebody for tonight. The problem is, you're so cute! Get used to it.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have plenty of energy, but it's the nervous kind. You're not very confident about what you're doing. What you need is feedback from others that you're on the right track. If they've been too busy to tell you, ask them. When they say something nice, soak it in.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There might be a little bit of confusion today. You are in a good position to be the hero. You can help the other person figure out the most logical thing to do next. Do more than give them a hug and send them on their way. Help your friend achieve the impossible.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There will be a problem with details today. They're skittering away in all directions. You know what needs to be done, but it's not all that easy to accomplish. Maybe you shouldn't depend too much on one source of income. If it's not reliable, find another.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It's a beautiful harvest moon. You should do something really special with your sweetheart. These conditions lead to even more commitments and even more fun. You'll both be in the mood to do something crazy, so watch out! It also looks like there's money coming in.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) The things you have in the back of your mind, your closest and your appointment book all need to be sorted through. There are a lot of changes going on. If you make time to get organized, you'll be able to keep up. If you don't, you may lag behind.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The moon in Pisces makes you a little gentler than usual. Mars in your sign gives you power. Venus in your sign brings compassion and love. The combination is just amazing. You can accomplish great things today. You can even talk other people into doing it for you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There's a lot of talk and a lot of action, but it still might seem like nothing's getting done. Instead of trying to produce results, do research. Gather information, ask questions and take notes. In the process, you just might find the answer you seek.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may get a chance to travel later on this evening. Plan to go out to dinner, at least. You need to be with someone you can talk with freely. You've got a couple of tough days coming up, so you need to be prepared. One of the ways you can do that is by relaxing totally.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You're worrying about money, thinking about money, figuring out how to get money. You probably already have the objective in mind and you may even know the route to take. You tend to do better when you're overloaded. Keep that in mind as you're making your decision.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) When the moon's in your sign, you tend to be even more sensitive, warm and loving. Today, you could be a little too sensitive for your own good. If your partner says something critical, don't take it the wrong way. Stay objective. The truth is that you are actually very powerful.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Price of empty gas cylinder goes up by JD3.5 to JD22

PRICES OF empty gas cylinders were raised Monday by JD3.5 each to become JD22 instead of JD18.5. As such, the price of a cylinder full with gas becomes JD24 as the price of gas remained unchanged at JD2 per cylinder. According to Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) Director General Abdul Wahab Al Zu'bi, the increase in the price of empty cylinder was taken by the Cabinet to contribute, though partially, in putting an end to mishandling of the cylinders by distributors and consumers.

Mr. Zu'bi noted that the mishandling results in damages to the cylinders and ultimately to have them destroyed. "The refinery is obliged to destroy about 10,000 cylinders each year. That means putting an additional cost on the refinery to carry out this task," the director general said.

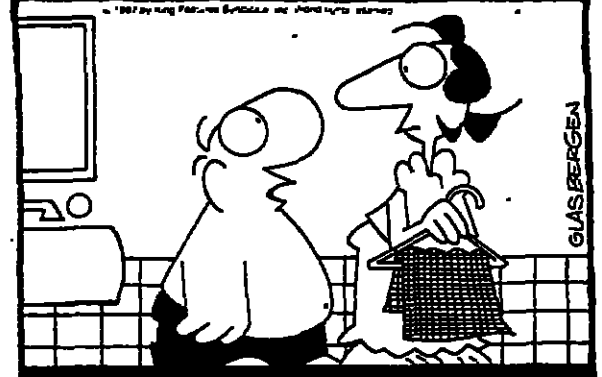
Other reasons given by Mr. Zu'bi of the price hike were the higher international prices for iron and the strict regulations on specifications issued by the Institute of Standards and Specifications. He stressed that the refinery was also being very strict in adhering to public safety rules in order to guarantee that the cylinders are fit for usage.

Replying to a question about the intention to destroy 200,000 cylinders, the refinery chief revealed that JPRC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Finance and the Institute of Standards and Specifications, is at present conducting a technical study to specify the number of damaged or unfit cylinders in order to destroy and replace them.

Mr. Zu'bi said that the JPRC management, in coordination with the concerned parties, is currently preparing technical specifications to handle the cylinders in loading, storing and delivering them to the consumers in a "civilised manner." He indicated that the new system would limit the distribution to a number of large companies that have the technical capabilities and the public safety requirements. "These large companies will deal with secondary distributors," Mr. Zu'bi said noting that at present nearly 1,200 distributors deal directly with the refinery (Al Ra'i + Al Aswag).

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"You know that 'scale of 1 to 10' they always talk about? That's the scale I'd like to weigh myself on."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FEBOG
AGGUE
SLINAD
YNOFLE

Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIKER MOUSY IMPOSE SONATA
 Answer: Where his resolution to stop using cigarettes went - UP IN SMOKE

Abu Dhabi boosts downstream investment with new stake in Europe

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi announced Monday it has bought a 25 per cent stake in a major European venture as part of a drive to expand its overseas downstream investment.

International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC), Abu Dhabi's oil investment arm, said it agreed with its partner OMV of Austria to buy the 50 per cent equity stake owned by Neste of Finland in the Scandinavian company Borealis.

Under a letter of intent signed last Monday, Neste will receive four billion Finnish marks (\$750 million) from IPIC-OMV for the sale of its entire stake in Copenhagen-based Borealis, a joint petrochemicals venture established in 1994 between Neste and Statoil of Norway, the statement said.

It said the deal also provides for the integration into Borealis of PCD, the restructured and profitable polyolefins subsidiary of

OMV, with an annual production capacity of more than three million tonnes.

"IPIC will continue with this investment strategy both with its existing partners and hopefully, in the same spirit of the mutual benefits to be derived from this cooperative approach, also with new partners in the international hydrocarbon industry," the government-owned IPIC said.

It decided to buy into Borealis because it wants to take what it called long-term equity stakes in successful companies outside Abu Dhabi. Borealis was selected last year for partnership in a major petrochemical project with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), which runs the emirate's vast energy sector and is one of the biggest oil firms in the world.

"The latest transaction marks Abu Dhabi's emergence as a global petrochemical player," IPIC Chairman Sheikh Mansur Ben Zayed Al Nahayan said.

"It is also seen as a tangible expression of IPIC's strategy of identifying new areas of cooperation from within its existing portfolio."

IPIC bought a 19.56 per cent stake in OMV, Austria's leading energy company, three years ago for around \$450 million. It was Abu Dhabi's biggest downstream investment.

IPIC's first downstream investment abroad was a 9.45 per cent in Compania Espanola de Petroleos (CEPSA), Spain's main petrochemical and refining company. The deal's value was estimated at around \$124 million.

It also has shares in the Pakistan-Arab Refinery Ltd. and the Arab Petroleum Pipelines Company (SUMED).

"Because IPIC has chosen to participate at the corporate level in broadly diversified energy companies, it has secured access to operating excellence, production technology and marketing expertise," the statement said.

"CEPSA and OMV possess these attributes

across a whole range of petroleum, petrochemical and related activities.

"The opportunity therefore exists for IPIC to pursue the investment projects which arise from the domestic hydrocarbons industry in conjunction with highly experienced industry participants."

Disclosing the precise value of its downstream investments for the first time, IPIC said the market value of its shareholdings in OMV and CEPSA totalled \$998 million on Sept. 9 in addition to around \$357 million in non-publicly listed investments.

Abu Dhabi controls more than 90 per cent of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) oil reserves of nearly 98 billion barrels and the bulk of its mammoth gas resources of 5.7 trillion cubic metres (190 trillion cubic feet).

The emirate started downstream investment abroad in the 1980s to diversify sources of income and find new markets for its crude oil.

Expert urges businesspeople to bid for U.N. contracts

By Hasher Majoka
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Middle Eastern businesses need to increase their share in the \$30 billion spent annually on procurement of goods and services by the different U.N. agencies and international development banks, Edward de Broe-Ferguson, the chairman of the British specialty project management firm, Tamarisk, told Jordan businesspeople this week.

In a talk given at Amman Chamber of Industry Monday, Mr. Broe-Ferguson said that the share of the Middle Eastern business currently stands at less than one per cent of the total procurement by these organisations.

Mr. Broe-Ferguson, a former deputy chief of staff of U.N. forces in Cyprus, and adviser to the U.K. permanent mission in U.N., said many private businesses are unaware of procedures to tender for the U.N. contracts. He further added that "the point of entry into the U.N. system is hard to identify" since each major U.N. organisation has its own procurement agency.

However, under recent reforms initiated "to ensure greater transparency, and to get a better value for money" by "establishing a central database of suppliers" among other measures, bodes well for new businesses, he said.

United Nations' Intra Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) has recently expressed the

desire to have an increased number of Middle Eastern companies as regular suppliers, he said. Consequently, Mr. Broe-Ferguson said, for the past two years, Tamarisk has been organising an annual conference on "the private sector's role in support of the United Nations." The conference seeks to expand the number of Middle Eastern suppliers to the U.N. by bringing together the business people from the area and the representatives from the United Nations' agencies, and by increasing awareness of the procedures needed to tender for U.N. contracts. Mr. Broe-Ferguson announced that the conference enjoyed full support of the U.N. secretary general.

The first conference took place in Nicosia, Cyprus in 1995, and last year's conference was in Cairo. This year it is scheduled to take place in Dubai on Oct. 14-15.

The list of visitors includes Benon Sevon, assistant secretary general of the U.N. for procurement reform, heads of representatives from U.N. Independent Development Organisation, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Bank, as well as the head of the International Committee of Red Cross, John Manley.

Japan's exports to UAE rise 10%, imports surge

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japan Monday reported an increase of exports to 10 per cent in its exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the first half of 1997, while its imports from the Gulf country jumped by 22.3 per cent.

Exports stood at around \$1.17 billion in the first half of 1997 compared with \$1.06 billion in the same period of 1996, the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) said in a report from its UAE office.

"The improved export figures indicate that there is consistency in customer preference to goods manufactured in Japan," JETRO said.

The relative lowering of the yen value against the U.S. currency may also have boosted the Japanese exports to the UAE.

The report showed growth in most exports, with machinery and equipment surging to \$816.3 million from \$743.6 million.

Transport equipment sales also grew to \$349.9 million from \$301.3 million and metal products to \$94.8 million from \$62.1 million.

The value of electrical machinery exports dropped to around \$206.9 million from \$242.4 million, and textiles to \$85.9 million

from \$106.4 million, the report showed.

Japan's imports from the UAE soared to \$6.36 billion from \$5.20 billion due to a rise in oil prices and supplies, it said.

Crude sales went up to \$4.93 billion from \$4.18 billion and those of gas to \$478.6 million from \$339.4 million.

"This increase was due to the dual effects of an oil price rise and a high volume of oil intake during that period," it said, adding the average crude price surged by more than 16 per cent in the first half of 1997.

The report showed the volume of UAE crude supplies to Japan increased to 219.3 million barrels in the first half of 1997 (1.2 million barrels per day) from 215.9 million in the first half of 1996 (1.19 million bpd).

The UAE is the top oil exporter to Japan, supplying nearly a quarter of its crude needs. It is also the second biggest Gulf commercial partner of Japan after Saudi Arabia and accounts for nearly two per cent of Tokyo's world trade.

Large oil and gas sales have kept the trade balance in favour of the UAE, with the surplus standing at \$5.18 billion in the first half of 1997.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKH SAHAB											
TELEPHONE: 607111 / 607119											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 15/09/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW			SHARES	TRADED	JD	PRICE	PRICE			
346.000	241.000	ARAB BANK	15.6	1.18	1	4000	1360000	339.00	340.00	1.00	+
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL B.V.	8.0	0.00	59	42211	84513	2.04	1.98	-0.06	-
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.3	0.00	3	110	330	3.05	3.00	-0.05	-
2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.9	7.03	3	25500	57375	2.25	2.25	0.00	0
5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.9	3.90	24	6850	33881	4.93	4.97	0.04	+
1.050	0.750	JOR. GULF BANK	4.5	9.33	3	3500	2545	0.77	0.75	-0.02	-
4.050	3.520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.7	3.10	2	200	775	3.86	3.87	0.01	+
1.620	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	6	0.00	6	37204	44680	1.22	1.20	-0.02	-
2.280	1.890	BRIT. AL-HAL (SEITWA)	15.1	0.00	3	500	488	0.93	0.98	0.05	+
5.150	4.450	ARAB BANKING CO.	20.4	0.00	2	250	1060	4.46	4.24	-0.22	-
1.440	0.850	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	4	6123	5631	0.91	0.92	0.01	+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 242.47	CHNG: +0.12	110	126445	1591377					
2.210	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.9	8.62	4	2350	4089	1.74	1.74	0.00	0
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 114.70	CHNG: 0.00	4	2350	4089					
1.850	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.5	5.65	29	9383	16608	1.78	1.77	-0.01	-
1.440	1.320	IRSID ELECTRICITY	15.2	0.49	4	1400	3440	2.44	2.56	0.12	+
6.100	4.100	JOR. INTL. HOTELS	14.1	4.35	3	694	3200	4.78	4.60	-0.18	-
1.950	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	3	1150	1600	1.40	1.39	-0.01	-
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	8.7	0.00	3	19875	6585	3.38	3.35	-0.03	-
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.3	6.29	4	800	1405	1.79	1.75	-0.04	-
1.010	0.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	2	800	571	0.71	0.72	0.01	+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 110.48	CHNG: -1.17	48	34072	93405					
4.450	3.230	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	25.9	2.86	18	13121	50484	3.83	3.84	0.01	+
4.140	3.000	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	10.4	2.67	4	36450	136688	3.82	3.75	-0.07	-
10.900	9.070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.1	8.48	38	2725	28791	10.65	10.48	-0.17	-
7.150	5.800	JOR. WORTED MILLS	11.0	2.94	4	6500	44515	6.85	6.80	-0.05	-
4.640	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.7	4.35	32	14786	67987	4.50	4.60	0.10	+
1.800	1.270	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	15.7	0.00	2	300	381	1.27	1.27	0.00	0
9.800	5.000	ARAB CEMENT. DISTR.	19.5	4.72	3	146	923	6.45	6.35	-0.10	-
5.770	4.300	DAR ALADWA. D. INV.	14.3	4.27	9	1404	8185	5.76	5.85	0.09	+
3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.6	10.37	3	700	1686	2.40	2.41	0.01	+
2.940	1.940	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.9	0.00	11	44000	20680	47	47	0.00	0
1.480	0.790	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	300	242	0.81	0.80	-0.01	-
0.770	0.510	NATIONAL IRON	9	0.00	4	3500	1820	0.53	0.52	-0.01	-
2.200	1.510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	11	4400	2433	1.55	1.56	0.01	+
2.580	1.510	UNIV. CHEM. TRDS.	13.7	5.58	1	100	132	1.53	1.52	-0.01	-
0.890	0.530	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	9	0.00	3	1700	1054	0.63	0.62	-0.01	-
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	26	14780	19851	1.34	1.34	0.00	0
1.580	1.080	UNIV. MODN. IND.	4	2.21	4	950	1286	1.25	1.25	0.00	0
1.510	0.910	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	12.2	10.99	9	2624	2386	0.91	0.91	0.00	0
1.070	0.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	2	650	546	0.84	0.84	0.00	0
2.090	1.340	EL - SAY READY WEAR	54.5	0.00	1	150	233	1.57	1.55	-0.02	-
1.170	0.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	52.3	0.00	1	750	863	1.15	1.15	0.00	0
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 121.85	CHNG: -0.21	188	150006	391083					
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 176.11	CHNG: -0.07	350	312876	2079954					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 15/09/1997											
0.650	0.380	JOR. FIN. INV. / AUCTION	10.9	0.00	75	739975	503183	0.67	0.68	0.01	+
0.950	0.540	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	10	20500	8347	0.40	0.41	0.01	+
0.840	0.600	JOR. FIN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	62	217037	148314	0.67	0.69	0.02	+
0.570	0.360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	12	13764	3203	0.74	0.74	0.00	0
0.950	0.720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	9	0.00	10	18250	6935	0.38	0.38	0.00	0
0.950	0.720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	9	0.00	1	2900	2455	0.85	0.85	0.00	0
0.950	0.610	AL-DAMLIYAH 752	73.9	0.00	4	2053	1067	0.77	0.77	0.00	0
0.750	0.380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	48.4	0.00	6	6500	2750	0.42	0.42	0.00	0
0.750	0.400	NATL. MULT. ENG. NAMICO	9	0.00	5	7000	3010	0.44	0.43	-0.01	-
0.820	0.710	JORDAN STEEL	33.9	6.67	1	300	225	0.75	0.75	0.00	0
0.730	0.580	MIDEST PRISM. 752	9	0.00	3	3500	1368	0.63	0.63	0.00	0
0.730	0.550	RAZI PHARM. 852	8	0.00	17	55750	28990	0.68	0.67	-0.01	-
0.570	0.290	INDS. ENG.	9	0.00	9	12000	3600	0.30	0.30	0.00	0
0.860	0.690	INDS. CERAMIC	18.1	0.00	1	100	69	0.69	0.69	0.00	0
1.000	0.700	INT. ALUMINUM. 752	96.0	0.00	9	12050	5373	0.70	0.69	-0.01	-
1.020	0.720	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	37.6	0.00	9	2000	776	0.77	0.76	-0.01	-
0.860	0.580	MID-EST COMPLEX	7.5	16.39	11	14750	9010	0.62	0.61	-0.01	-
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 121.85	CHNG: -0.21	188	150006	391083					
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 176.11	CHNG: -0.07	350	312876	2079954					
237 1126729 728165											
I : New 12 months high											
+ : New 12 months low											
* : Listed during the past 12 months											
P / E ratio is 100 or more											
9 : Negative P/E											
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

Reds tipped to win 'Battle of Britain'

GLASGOW (AFP) — Two giants of British football will clash in a titanic European showdown when Celtic meet Liverpool in the first leg of the UEFA CUP first round in a highly-charged atmosphere at Parkhead on Tuesday.

Celtic became the first British club to win the European Cup when they beat Inter Milan in 1967, but they go into the match as outright underdogs against Liverpool, Britain's most successful club in European competition.

The Glasgow side have been forced to play second fiddle to arch rivals Rangers for the past decade and no-one is giving them much chance against a star-studded Liverpool tipped for honours this season.

Former Liverpool and Scotland great, Ian St. John, has no doubt about the out-

come.

"Liverpool have better players than Celtic. Karl Heinz Riedle scores goals for fun, and in young Michael Owen, Roy Evans has unearthed a real match-winner," says St. John.

The experience of German star Riedle, who scored two of the goals in the European Cup final last season for Borussia Dortmund, could prove crucial for Liverpool.

He said: "I believe this Liverpool side can win trophies at home and abroad. It is my aim to be part of that."

Midfielder Paul Ince, bought from Inter in the summer to provide the combative edge Liverpool lacked last season, said: "It will be a great occasion in Glasgow, but we must go there and do a professional job. That means not conceding a goal. Then we can finish the job, hopefully, in

Liverpool."

Craig Burley has told his Celtic team-mates they have nothing to fear from the Merseyside giants.

The 25-year-old Scotland midfielder is optimistic about Celtic's chances in the first Anglo-Scottish encounter since Rangers defeated Leeds over two legs in second round of the 1992/93 European Cup.

He said: "Hopefully we will be in the right frame of mind after five successive wins and the key for us against Liverpool is that we relax and play."

"It is a test for the team, though no-one should forget it is early days for us, and we know we have to leave ourselves with a chance in the second leg."

"Even a draw would not be a bad result because if the tie is still alive for the Anfield game I feel we have

a real chance of progressing."

"We are used to playing in front of big crowds and I'm sure we can go there and enjoy it, not fear it."

Celtic's Dutch coach Wim Jansen is playing down hopes of a Celtic upset over the two legs.

"Liverpool are such a high quality side that clearly it is going to be very difficult for us," Jansen says.

"We have made progress recently but won't know until Tuesday just how much. The matches against Liverpool will tell us where we are heading."

When the two sides met in the 1966 European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final, Jock Stein's Celtic won the first leg 1-0 at Parkhead only to lose the second 2-0 to Bill Shankly's Liverpool in a stormy return match at Anfield.

Gunners braced for red-hot reception

LONDON (AFP) — English giants Arsenal have set off for their UEFA Cup clash in Greece convinced that PAOK Salonica's fans could pose as many problems as their highly-regarded team.

Arsenal, who can expect 2,000 of their own fans for the opening match of their European campaign, are bracing themselves for an intimidating reception from the Greeks.

Chief scout Steve Rowley went to see PAOK play at home in a goalless draw against AEK Athens in the opening league fixture of the season and returned with alarming reports.

"It was a bit hairy to say the least," said Rowley. "Before the start of the match we wondered why the AEK fans were running to their places in the ground. We soon found out it was because they were under a hail of missiles."

"You could say the supporters are a bit fanatical. They make a hell of a noise and get right behind the team. It is quite a sound — and quite a sight."

Salonika were banned from European football for two seasons in 1992 after missile-throwing in the second leg of their UEFA Cup tie against Paris St. Germain.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger admitted: "I know the crowd will be very volatile and it will be a test for us but I am not too much concerned for our players because we have many experienced ones."

"But the bad news really is that Salonika are a very good side. It is a bad surprise."

Wenger believes it is Arsenal's famous powers of defensive discipline that will now come under the fiercest scrutiny at the start of their UEFA Cup campaign.

Arsenal will be without in-form striker Dennis Bergkamp whose fear of flying meant he was unable to travel to Greece.

Gunners' striker Ian Wright, who broke Arsenal's goalscoring record with a hat-trick against Bolton on Saturday, is likely to be the lone man upfront.

Wright gave a broad hint of Arsenal's tactics when he said: "Hopefully we will go to Greece, bore them to death and nick a goal as well."



Argentine Diego Maradona shouts to celebrate his goal from a penalty kick for Boca Juniors during a match for the Argentine championship against Newell's Old Boys. Maradona, who tested positive in an antidoping test after a match, was temporarily suspended by the Argentine Football Association (AFA) disciplinary committee, but a judge allowed him to play while he decides whether the urine sample that tested positive for drugs was really Maradona's. Boca Juniors won the match 2-1 (Reuters photo)

Standing ovation and a goal as Maradona returns

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona received a standing ovation Sunday when he returned to action with his Argentinian club Boca Juniors — and he reacted by scoring the 151st goal of his career with a penalty which helped his side to a 2-1 league victory over Newell's Old Boys.

The 36-year-old South American, who had been given permission to play by the Argentinian Federation pending the definitive outcome of a drugs test, slotted home three minutes before the interval.

The visitors drew level on the hour through Lujambio but Barros Scherlotto put the issue beyond doubt with a goal ten minutes from the final whistle.

Last week a judge lifted a ban on Argentina's former World Cup-winning skipper for failing a drugs test until it could be proved conclusively that a B probe urine sample was Maradona's.

On Sunday, the stadium was packed to the rafters with 60,000 fans who had come to see Maradona who tested positive for an unidentified banned substance after a match against Argentinos Juniors on August 24.

The result was confirmed in a September 3 follow-up test, but his lawyers appealed, claiming the sample tested was not Maradona's and then managed to have the automatic suspension lifted.

Sources close to the veter-

an said he had taken a personal doping test on Saturday which proved negative, and he voluntarily insisted on being tested before Sunday's game. He will also have another test on Monday.

Maradona has admitted to a cocaine addiction but denied he used the drug to improve his game. He had already tested positive for drugs twice before — in 1991 when he was playing for Napoli and during the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

The footballer is also due to appear in court on Wednesday to learn if he is to be imprisoned for shooting at journalists with an air-gun in 1994.

Mantilla downs partner Moya

BOURNEMOUTH, England (AFP) — Spaniard Felix Mantilla won his fifth ATP tour title of the year, beating his compatriot and top seed Carlos Moya in the final of the Bournemouth International on Sunday.

The second seed triumphed 6-2, 6-2 over his regular practice partner in a battle of Barcelona baseliners and matched the achievements of Pete Sampras and Michael Chang by landing his fifth title in 1997.

"In the beginning of the match I was playing very well and he wasn't. I was very happy with the result," said Mantilla, who was a point away from a 5-0 lead before Moya started to get into the contest.

In the third game of the second set Mantilla produced some remarkable coverage of the net to deny Moya a chance to pass him and saving that point enabled him not only to break serve but appeared to rattle the favourite.

World No. 5 Moya subsided tamely to an unexpectedly one-sided 63 minute defeat, looking little like the player who had overwhelmed British number one Greg Rusedski the day before.

It was Mantilla's fifth victory over Moya in seven meetings, the second successive year a Spaniard had won at Bournemouth and the sixth all round Spanish final on the tour this year.

Spain's remarkable total of 15 players in the top 100 have won 22 titles altogether in the last 18 months.



Green Bay Packers running back William Henderson is tackled by Miami Dolphins cornerback Tim Jacobs after a 17-yard pass play in the second quarter at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Packers defeated the Dolphins (Reuters photo)

NFL RESULTS

Washington (AFP) — Results of the National Football League on Sunday

Oakland	36	Atlanta	21
Denver	32	Chicago	7
Green Bay	23	Miami	18
Kansas City	22	Buffalo	16
Tampa Bay	28	Minnesota	14
Baltimore	24	NY Giants	23
Washington	19	Arizona	13 (OT)
Denver	25	St. Louis	14
Seattle	31	Indianapolis	3
Carolina	26	San Diego	7
San Francisco	34	New Orleans	7
New England	27	NY Jets	24 (OT)

Shot put champs lend weight to Indian meet

NEW DELHI (AFP) — World shot put champions John Godina and Astrid Kumbernuss lead a star-studded field taking part in an Indian invitation track and field meet here on Tuesday.

Sri Lankan sprint queen Sushantika Jayasinghe, discus ace Jurgen Schult of Germany, middle-distance runner Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria and Kenyan steeplechase stalwart Moses Kiptanui are some of the other prominent entries, organisers said Monday.

Former Indian star P.T. Usha leads the home challenge during the day-night meet at the 80,000-capacity Jawaharlal Nehru stadium which features some 150 athletes from 20 countries.

All eyes will, however, be on shot put where American Godina renews his intriguing rivalry with Aleksander Bagach, of Ukraine, and Germany's Kumbernuss makes her first appearance since winning the women's overall Grand Prix title last week.

Wild card Godina was awarded the gold medal at the world championships in Athens in August when Olympic bronze medalist Bagach, who finished first, was disqualified for ephedrine violation.

The duo will be further pushed by Bagach's team-mate Yuriy Belonog, who finished fourth at Athens.

Godina will also take part in the discus against Schult, whose world record throw of 74.08 meters in 1986 still remains unsurpassed.

Kumbernuss, who earned 250,000 dollars for being declared the best woman athlete on this year's Grand Prix circuit, will be pitted against fellow German Stephanie Storp.

Sri Lanka's Jayasinghe will run her first race on Indian soil since her remarkable silver medal in the 200 metres at Athens over fancied Merlene Ottey of Jamaica.

Indian track and field officials expect to be awarded a lucrative Grand Prix event next year, only the second in Asia after Japan.

Tuesday's invitation meet will be India's ninth in 12 years. Leading stars like Carl Lewis, Michael Johnson, Sergei Bubka, Said Aouita, Evelyn Ashford and Ottey have taken part in previous meets.

Henman takes another ATP title

TASHKENT (AFP) — Tim Henman took the second ATP tour title of his career on Sunday, beating Switzerland's Marc Rosset 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 in the final of the \$405,000 Presidents Cup in Tashkent.

It was sweet revenge for 22-year-old Henman, ranked 20 in the world, as the 6ft 5ins Swiss beat him in the final of the European Community Championship in Antwerp seven months ago.

Henman, seeded two here, had to be at his best to oust the second seed, a former Olympic champion who beat top-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in three sets to reach the

final showdown.

The Briton showed he was fully over the elbow injury which plagued much of his season, taking the first set tie-break 7-2 against one of the world's fastest servers having begun badly by dropping his opening service game.

Having won his second service game only with some difficulty to avoid going 3-0 down, the British No. 2 quickly managed a break of his own after Rosset produced two double faults. Henman eventually wrapped up the tiebreak with a run of five straight points.

Rosset's saw his hopes finally

extinguished when he lost his serve in the fifth game of the second set. Henman promptly won three service games in a row to complete a five win.

The Briton's decision not to play on the slow clay of his home tournament in Bournemouth proved to have been a shrewd move as he secured his second career title to add to his debut triumph in Sydney in January.

But Henman, who was playing his fourth final of the year, will probably not move up in Monday's new rankings because Spain's Albert Costa won the Marbella title Sunday.

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CINEMA TEL: 634144
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Val Kilmer & Elizabeth Shue...in
THE SAINT
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
Alyssa Milano & William Petersen...in
FEAR
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 699238
PLAZA
Antonio Banderas...in
TWO MUCH
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
Sandra Bullock & Samuel L. Jackson...in
A TIME TO KILL
(12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30)
CONCORD "2"
BATMAN & ROBIN
Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only

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ASIAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Jordan impressive in 95-62 defeat to Asian champions China

for 9-15th places.

The team's qualification to the second round is a positive result taking into account the inadequate preparation for the event in which Jordan last took part in 1995 with the junior team and came in 13th.

The national team's best performance was a gold medal win at the 1985 Pan-Arab Games in Morocco.

On the Asian level, the under-18 team won the bronze medal at the 1995 Asian Junior Champi-

onship enabling the team to become the first Jordanian team to qualify to a World Championship.

kick, will join an attacking trident with Casiraghi and

Roberto Mancini — the scorer in Lazio's 1-0 friendly win over Benfica in Lis-

Sampdoria are at home to Athletic Bilbao, and hoping

for an end to the after-effects of international duty which marred Saturday's performances of three key players — German striker Jurgen Klinsmann and mid-

field duo Juan Sebastian Veron of Argentina and Yugoslav Sinisa Mihajlovic.

who have unhappy memories of playing against Italian clubs.

aggregate last month in the Champions League qualifiers, relegating the Poles to the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Members of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) stand together to form the sign '3 to Go' in Sydney. The formation is to symbolise the opening ceremony for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games occurring on this day in three years time (Reuters photo)

SYDNEY (AFP) — Olympic organisers Monday denied reports that funding of the main games stadium may be in jeopardy because of failed efforts to market a gold pass scheme seen as a major revenue source.

ment had been advised that failure of the scheme gave the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group grounds to avoid its commitment to provide \$160 million in loans towards the \$600 million stadium project.

to events there for 30 years afterwards, but only about a third were sold. The scheme has been criticised as being too expensive for most people.

Stadium Australia spokeswoman Sue Cato said Monday that there was no funding issue and the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group was not considering withdrawing.

She agreed the gold pass scheme had failed but said a new campaign would be launched. "We remain confident of selling all the passes."

Olympics Minister Michael Knight said speculation that the funding was in jeopardy was predicated on the private sector defaulting. "I can't believe that the private sector would default in a project of this nature," he said.

They say they are confident the 10,000-Australian-dollar (\$7,300) gold passes will ultimately sell with the relaunch of a marketing campaign, but in any case, funding of the stadium is guaranteed and work is ahead of schedule.

An Olympic Co-ordinating Authority document leaked last week by the Sydney Morning Herald said the failure by major contractors Stadium Australia successfully to market its gold pass scheme could endanger the entire project.

The document said the New South Wales govern-

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international team of 65 professional pilots will Thursday be met by His Majesty King Hussein when they arrive at Marka Airport on one stage of an international air race.

Twenty-one planes are taking part, and Amman is the sixth stage of the race after Reykjavik, Strasbourg, Seville, Rome, Tel Aviv. The race will be resumed on Friday, to Trabzon and Adana in Turkey.

The race is a follow up to Paris-Langkawi-Paris international air race which Jordan won in 1990 through its team "Falcon of Jordan"

Part-Time Development Assistant

Diplomatic mission in Amman wishes to recruit part-time Development Assistant. The successful applicant will be required to work three days a week (a total of 21 working hours), both undertaking desk work and field travel. The job involves a variety of administrative support tasks, including assistance in processing of project proposals, project monitoring, report writing, maintenance of basic accounts, and maintenance of databases. Candidates with the following skills and qualifications are invited to apply for this post:

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- Basic familiarity with accounting procedures.
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- Fluency in both Arabic and English.

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It's a mind blowing revolution.*

Albright announces talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots

LARNACA (AFP) — Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş have agreed to meet to discuss security issues, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced here on Monday.

"I am pleased to announce that earlier today President Clerides and His Excellency Rauf Denktaş informed the United States of their willingness to meet soon on Cyprus to discuss security issues," she said.

"This is a substantial step for improving the climate for serious negotiations on the core political issues,"

Ms. Albright told reporters after arriving here from Beirut at the end of a Middle East tour.

"Today's announcement is an expression of the same spirit to settle differences peacefully and not through the threat of force that I helped the Turkish and Greek leadership arrive at in Madrid a few months ago," she added.

U.S. envoy for Cyprus Thomas Miller held separate talks in the divided city of Nicosia on Monday with Messrs. Clerides and Denktaş, who failed to make any progress during intercommunal talks in

Switzerland last month.

Mr. Miller's trip is aimed at paving the way for a visit later this year by U.S. presidential envoy Richard Holbrooke, architect of the Dayton peace agreement in the former Yugoslavia.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded the northern third of the island in 1974 in reaction to a coup in Nicosia aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

The Turkish-Cypriots set up a breakaway republic in 1983, but the entity is recognised only by Ankara which maintains 35,000 troops there.

Palestinians seen holding key to economic summit

DUBAI (R) — Palestinian satisfaction with the progress of the Middle East peace process is the key to the success or failure of a controversial economic summit in the Gulf in November, Gulf analysts and diplomats said Monday.

At stake is the participation of regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia and some other wealthy Gulf Arab oil states who support the Palestinians politically and financially.

Most of them usually take their cue from the Saudis who, along with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), have said they would boycott the annual Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit being arranged in Doha, capital of the Gulf state of Qatar, if Israel took part.

The Saudis have urged neighbouring Qatar to cancel it.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat the summit was not on the agenda of a weekend meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers.

"It is not on the agenda... it will be dealt with within the framework of the Arab League," he said. "What is important now is putting the peace process back on its essential track of the Madrid agreement, land for peace and the Oslo accord."

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has said it would also boycott the Doha gathering if Israel was represented. Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain have yet to decide. Qatar, the sixth member of the GCC,

said the summit was on schedule and would go ahead.

Gulf analysts and diplomats said the participation of many countries in the summit depended on Palestinian satisfaction with the peace process now in crisis over Jewish settlements in Arab east Jerusalem and Islamist bombings.

"There should be real progress in the peace process. Real progress means that if the Palestinians say 'we are satisfied now, things are going on track' at least this is the start," one Gulf diplomat said.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who met the six Gulf Arab foreign ministers in Saudi Arabia Sunday, urged GCC states to take part in the summit and thus support long-term prospects for peace.

"The Doha summit is another opportunity to convey a message to the world that the Middle East can be a source of economic dynamism and opportunity and that the Gulf states are active in diversifying their own interests and building regional prosperity," she said.

"It will send a message to the opponents of peace that they can neither dictate policy nor hold back progress towards a region in which all will share the benefits of greater stability and rising prosperity."

Prince Saud said afterwards that Albright's assertion of the principle of land for peace as well as the inadmissibility of unilateral decisions that could harm the final stages of negotiations

were a good start for putting matters in their right place and moving the peace process forward.

"There's a feeling of welcoming the visit," a Gulf diplomat said. "At the same time, we're seeing some promising signs, some small steps. But everything depends on whether there will be real progress."

The diplomat said the smaller GCC states were likely to follow the lead of Saudi Arabia.

"If Saudi Arabia does decide to go I think others will go. The Saudis' position is very clear. They will not go unless they feel there is real progress. That depends on the Palestinians."

That was why there were continuous consultations, with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat going to Egypt Monday, Syrian President Hafez Assad going there Thursday, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan going to Saudi Arabia Tuesday.

"Basically, the word has to come from them [Palestinians]... that's why, for example, when they signed the Oslo agreement, although some people were not happy with the terms, everybody said 'if this is what the Palestinians want, fine. They know their problem better than us and whatever they opt for, we have to support them'."

Gulf News daily said there was no need for GCC countries to sit with Israel. "Not now, not in November, not in the future. Not unless Israel changes its attitude — or its leadership."

Leah calls Netanyahu's plan to lay flowers on Rabin's grave 'fraud'

Combined agency dispatches

Yitzhak Rabin's widow said Monday that it was better that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled plans to lay a wreath at the site of her husband's assassination.

"There is no reason for such a public relations trick... for this fraud, this hypocrisy, to lay a wreath where Rabin fell, ruined by an assassin — a missionary of an enormous, terrible propaganda campaign against him," Leah Rabin said on Israel Army radio.

Ms. Rabin has repeatedly accused Mr. Netanyahu of leading a campaign of right-wing incitement against her husband as he negotiated land-for-peace agreements with the Palestinians.

Mr. Netanyahu was opposition leader during Rabin's term as prime minister.

Rabin was shot and killed by a Jewish extremist as he left a peace rally at a Tel Aviv square in November 1995. The gunman, Yigal Amir, said he killed Rabin to prevent transfer of land to the Palestinians. Amir is

serving a life sentence.

In the opposition's campaign against the peace agreements, Rabin was repeatedly portrayed as a traitor.

"I want to stress and stress again that I do not release Benjamin Netanyahu from responsibility for this because he participated in the incitement," Ms. Rabin said Monday.

"Not only have I not seen any attempt at reconciliation, but I hear all the time the terrible blame he places on the previous government for everything that is happening now," she added. "I will not forget and I will not forgive."

Mr. Netanyahu was to have laid the wreath Tuesday as part of a tour of Tel Aviv schools. Mr. Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan, was not immediately available for comment.

"[Netanyahu] doesn't like to be booed. He should take a page out of Yitzhak's book. He wasn't afraid of going anywhere, even if he knew they would demonstrate against him," Leah Rabin told Israel Radio.

Ms. Rabin said anti-Netanyahu protesters would have turned out at Yitzhak Rabin square Tuesday had the prime minister gone ahead with plans for the ceremony during a tour of Tel Aviv.

A spokesman for Mr. Netanyahu said "It was cancelled for security reasons. They would have had to close off all of Ibn Gvirol street," referring to a main Tel Aviv thoroughfare near the square.

Mr. Netanyahu's rightist Likud Party issued a statement condemning Ms. Rabin's remarks.

"It is regrettable that Mrs. Rabin, in her words and behaviour, does not respect herself or the memory of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin," the statement said.

Last week, Ms. Rabin signed a peace document with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to mark the four-year anniversary of the first mutual recognition agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that was signed with a White House handshake by Rabin and Mr. Arafat.



Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams (centre) arrives for the first day of the Northern Ireland peace talks at Stormont Monday. Flanking Mr. Adams are party negotiators Calomhghin O'Caolain (left) and Martin McGuinness. The Ulster Unionist Party was still uncertain whether they would meet Sinn Féin in the face-to-face talks (Reuters photo)

Unionists shun opening session of N. Ireland talks but rule out boycott

BELFAST (AFP) — Historic multi-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland opened here Monday with Sinn Féin facing a row of empty chairs as Ulster's unionist leaders stayed away.

But Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble said his party was not going to boycott the negotiations. He said "we intend to be present as soon as possible."

The party, the biggest representing the province's Protestant majority, and smaller unionist parties came to Stormont Castle where the talks are taking place, said of the unionists: "If they are not here today, they will be here tomorrow, or the next day, or the next day. The sooner the better. But they'll be there."

He said the negotiations "could be the beginning of the end of conflict on this island. For the first time since partition, I've been invited here. We've come here armed only with our electoral mandate. I want to see the end to British jurisdiction on this island."

Loyalist fringe parties the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic Party, also boycotted the opening session. The radical Democratic Unionist Party and the United Kingdom Unionist Party

have said they will not take part at all.

Political observers said the peace train was under way, even if not everyone was on board and they expected the unionists to become involved within days.

Only hours before Monday's session Britain and Ireland issued a statement giving fresh assurances to the unionists on the key issues of consent and arms decommissioning to persuade them to participate.

A joint statement by Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, said both governments would "like to see the decommissioning of some paramilitary arms during the negotiations."

And they underlined that consent was a guiding principle for the talks.

Mr. Trimble said he found the governments' statement "useful" and encouraging, particularly the "clear statements on actual decommissioning during talks — language that the Irish government would not use in July."

Unionists have cited their doubts over the IRA's willingness to disarm as the talks progress as one of the main stumbling blocks to participation.

Sinn Féin, signed up to the decommissioning proposals last week, but the IRA, which declared a ceasefire at the end of July, has said it had difficulty in accepting that it "surrender" its weapons before the talks conclude.

The decommissioning principles are one of six ground rules on democracy and non-violence drawn up by an international commission led by Sen. Mitchell.

Monday's statement by Prime Minister Blair and Prime Minister Ahern sets out in black and white their views on the issue of decommissioning weapons.

It said the two governments saw "resolution of the decommissioning issue as an indispensable part of the process of negotiation."

Both governments wanted "to see the decommissioning of some paramilitary arms during the negotiations, as progress is made in the political talks."

On consent, both governments "reaffirm that the aim of the negotiations is to achieve a new and lasting agreement, addressing the totality of relationships, which commands the consent of both unionists and nationalists."

India and Pakistan to resume fragile dialogue amidst border duels and 'tit-for-tat' expulsions

NEW DELHI (R) — India and Pakistan resume a fragile dialogue here on Tuesday to try to build trust after tensions caused by cross-border artillery duels in disputed Kashmir and tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shamshad Ahmad arrived in the Indian capital on Monday and said the two countries aim to activate working groups on issues that divide them during the three-day talks.

But hopes for improving ties have dimmed due to the Kashmir artillery exchanges over the past two months, and expulsions of junior embassy personnel announced over the weekend.

"The cross-border firing and the expulsions on the eve of the talks have made things pretty tense," Jyotindra Nath Dixit, a former Indian foreign secretary, said.

Both countries had agreed at the last round of talks in June in Islamabad to set up mechanisms "to address in a purposeful and integrated manner

all outstanding issues including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Mr. Ahmad said in a brief airport statement.

These issues included a military stand-off on the remote Siachen glacier as well as maritime boundary demarcation, peace and security and trade.

"Our discussions during this round will focus on operationalising the agreed mechanisms," he said.

India's Foreign Secretary K. Raghunath said the new mechanisms would "lay the basis for a comprehensive and sustained dialogue between our two countries on a wide range of subjects."

The two sides chose to be ambiguous on how the central issue of Kashmir would be handled, despite the warm language.

"Asked if there would be a separate working group on Kashmir, Pakistan's Mr. Ahmad said: 'It's a question of nomenclature... Kashmir is one of the issues that has been identified in the last round.'"

At the June meeting there was conflicting interpretation over what had been agreed on the matter of Kashmir, the region over which the two sides have fought two wars.

While New Delhi said that it had agreed to discuss Kashmir as part of the dialogue between the two senior diplomats, Islamabad said there would be a separate working group focusing on the core issue of Kashmir.

Both nations at the start of this week's dialogue pledged to carry the dialogue further.

"Given the political will and sincerity of purpose we see no reason why this should not mark the beginning of a process which would ultimately lead to cooperative and good neighbourly relations," Mr. Ahmad said.

India's commitment to the peace talks is "firm and unequivocal notwithstanding the complexities and difficulties which might present themselves from time to time," Foreign Secretary Raghunath said.

Formal talks open Tuesday and will last three days.

The official-level talks will be followed in short order by a summit meeting between Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif in New York on Sept. 23. The Indian government announced the date on Monday.

"I am glad that talks are taking place, but there is nothing more to it," Mr. Dixit told Reuters. The two nations are meeting for the third time this year after breaking a three-year stalemate in March. The talks will also be the first since the 50th anniversary in August of Britain's partition of the sub-continent, which created the two warring neighbours. Some analysts said that the political drive behind the peace process was flagging.

"It had become apparent that the political impulse imparted at the highest level that had been given to the process was in sharp decline," the Pioneer newspaper said on Monday.

Turkish students start under secular school law

ANKARA (AFP) — Nearly 13 million Turkish pupils went to school Monday on the first day of the new academic year which marked an anti-Islamic education reform causing social unrest.

"The eight-year education reform is a vital move to boost our schooling system and prepare our children for contemporary life," President Suleyman Demirel said in a statement.

Under the new school law, which was prepared by the secular government of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and passed by parliament in August, a five-year compulsory preliminary education period has been raised to eight years. However, the practical effect became the closure of hundreds of state-run secondary schools with religious education that train imams, or local Islamic leaders.

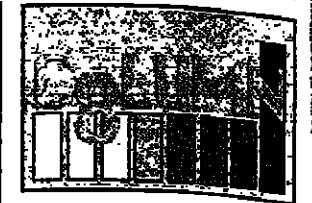
This year no new pupils could enrol in those schools, which will effectively be closed after their current students graduate in two years.

The anti-Islamic school law is part of a plan backed by the pro-secular military to curb rising Islamic movements in Turkey.

Former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who was the first Islamist government chief in the 74-year history of

the secular Turkish Republic, resigned in June after one year of rifts with the powerful army. The military and secular groups consider the religious schools as institutions bringing up potential Islamic fundamentalists.

The school law has prompted intensive public protests throughout the country by Islamist groups, including Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party.



200,000 people visit Mother Teresa in cyberspace

CALCUTTA (AFP) — Around 200,000 people have visited a Mother Teresa website since her death, a company official said here Monday. Debashish Bhattacharya, corporate affairs manager of India on Internet, said more than 100,000 hits were recorded on Saturday, the day of the Roman Catholic nun's funeral. He said: "Several hundred people have also left messages in our on-line condolence book. We will keep the website going for some time. 'It's appropriate. Mother Teresa remains part of Calcutta and India.'"

Shevardnadze to receive Onassis Prize

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis paid tribute Monday to Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, as the latter prepared to pick up an award for promoting international understanding. Shevardnadze will receive the award Tuesday from the Onassis Foundation. Simitis said the Georgian head of state "has transformed the international scene... so that friendship and peace reign throughout Europe."

Dubai cracks down on unwanted Romeos

DUBAI (AFP) — The Gulf Emirate of Dubai is pressing on with a crackdown against men who harass women in public places, a campaign that is producing results, officials said Monday. Plainclothes security men in this key United Arab Emirates (UAE) commercial centre arrested two youths Sunday. "The arrests were part of an ongoing campaign against those who harass women in public places," newspapers quoted a police statement.

TV queen Oprah stays on as host of top-rate talk show

CHICAGO (AFP) — U.S. television queen Oprah Winfrey announced here Monday that she was staying on as host of the most popular U.S. talk show until the end of the decade. She made the much-awaited announcement jointly with King World Productions, the company that syndicates the Emmy Award-winning "The Oprah Winfrey Show," which is watched daily by 20 million people across the United States. "I want to use television not only to entertain, but to help people lead better lives," Oprah said as she kicked off her show's 12th season.

Playboy heiress could set up erotic TV channel in Poland

WARSAW (AFP) — Playboy heiress Christie Hefner, buoyed by the success of the renowned men's magazine in Poland, said Monday she may set up an erotic television channel there. The head of Playboy Enterprises said she wanted to keep abreast of demand in the country for erotic images. Independent television channels say there is a great demand for erotica on television which licences granted by authorities so far have been unable to satisfy.

Tightrope walkers cross the Thames simultaneously

LONDON (R) — Two tightrope walkers made history when they successfully crossed the River Thames after setting out from opposite banks. American Jack Kindar-Martin, 23, shook hands with Frenchman Didier Pasquette, 28, and then gracefully stepped over him at mid-point in the 300-metre walk.